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23 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2309130088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Constitutional Crisis—In the wake of outgoing President Amin al-Jumayyil's decision to form a military government, Beirut radio announced the postponement of the 23 September Chamber of Deputies session "to a date which will be set in due time."

The indefinite postponement of the presidential election followed an announcement from B'abda Palace that General Michel 'Awn has been appointed to head a new government comprising five senior Army officers.

The presidential decree, which was broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, appointed 'Awn as minister of national defense and information as well as chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Other posts were allocated to Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah, Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham, Brigadier Generals Edgar Ma'luf and Nabil Quraytim, and Colonel Lutfi Jabir.

In a farewell message broadcast by Radio Free Lebanon before the expiry of his term of office, Al-Jumayyil said he is leaving the Constitution in the care of the new government, which will be responsible for seeking the prompt election of another president.

Al-Jumayyil spoke of his "worry and tribulation" over the failure to elect a president and claimed that a "conspiracy" has prevented the country from overcoming its ordeals and wars.

Gen 'Awn subsequently confirmed that the objective of the military government is to ensure a proper transfer of power and disclosed he has a "security program aimed at ensuring sound presidential elections," according to Radio Free Lebanon.

However, three members of the new government swiftly announced they would not participate in it, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

The three are Brig Gen Quraytim, Maj Gen Abu Dargham, and Col Jabir.

The latter revealed he was "not consulted" and the appointment had taken him by "surprise."

Maronite reaction to the new government was generally favorable, with Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' welcoming the formation of a "strong" government and National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un praising 'Awn's appointment as "excellent," according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Deputy Pierre Hilu revealed he had not been able to form a civilian government representing all sects and wished success for 'Awn's administration.

In contrast, Amal Movement and PSP leaders Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt described the formation of the new cabinet as a "coup d'etat," Voice of Lebanon noted.

Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said the new government is "stillborn" and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies likewise said it is "illegitimate."

Similar denunciations were voiced by Mufti Hasan Khalid and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, the leading Sunni and Shi'ite theologians, as well as by pro-Syrian nationalist parties in West Beirut, the radio reported.

Amal Leaders' Assassination—An Amal Movement statement carried by Beirut radio confirmed the assassination of Amal officials Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Sbaytah, stating they were ambushed by "agents of Israel" while traveling south of Beirut.

The attack was carried out by 10 gunmen who used rockets and machineguns, riddling the Amal officials with bullets, the radio revealed.

Responsibility for the killing was claimed by an anonymous person speaking on behalf of "The Organization for Combating the Agents of Zionism," Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

According to Radio Free Lebanon, Amal members responded to the assassination by arresting Hizballah members, while Syrian intelligence personnel arrested 'Atif 'Awn, a deputy of Dawud Dawud, on suspicion of involvement in organizing the ambush.

Israel

Foreign Policy—In an interview with Jerusalem radio before his departure for France and the United States, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he will appeal to Arab countries at the UN General Assembly to "come out of the closet, drop their misgivings, and openly state whether they are in favor of peace."

On his scheduled meeting with the Soviet foreign minister in New York, Peres disclosed he will demand that any country wishing to participate in the peace process must establish "unequivocal, unambiguous, and full relations" with Israel.

Peres also denied reports he has held indirect contacts with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and referred to the latter as "vermin."

The director general of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office had earlier "summoned" the Egyptian ambassador to express Israel's "grave concern" over 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo, Jerusalem radio noted.

Territories—Nine people were wounded in clashes with IDF troops in the Nabulus casbah and three rioters were likewise injured in the Gaza Strip, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio reports.

THE JERUSALEM POST subsequently cited reports that 24 Palestinians were wounded in clashes throughout the territories 22 September.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin narrowly escaped being hit by a "building block" while visiting the Gaza Strip, the POST revealed.

Afghanistan

A Soviet-Afghan joint statement published by PRAVDA following Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq's 18—22 September visit to the USSR expressed renewed concern that Pakistan has been "systematically violating" the Geneva Accords.

This situation cannot continue indefinitely, the statement warned, adding that the Soviet Union and Afghanistan "reserve the right to take agreed measures dictated by the situation as it develops."

The USSR and Afghanistan still believe that not all opportunities have been exhausted for exerting "the necessary influence" on Pakistan and expect the United States will make "appropriate efforts" in this regard.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria, Morocco Reportedly To Normalize Relations

JN2309105888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 23 Sep (WAKH)—The Qatari paper AL-RAYAH today reports that Syria and Morocco have reached an agreement to open offices to look after their interests in the two countries' capitals as a first step to the resumption of diplomatic relations between them.

Diplomatic relations between Syria and Morocco were severed following Moroccan King Hassan II's meeting with Zionist entity Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Ifrane in 1986.

The Qatari paper cites Arab diplomatic sources as saying the opening of these offices is the result of mediation by several Arab countries, particularly by Jordan.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Denies 'Direct Contacts' With U.S.

JN2309095288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0905 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 23 Sep (WAKH)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has stated that no decision has been made as yet regarding the formation of a Palestinian provisional government or government-in-exile, that the PLO's legal and political committee is studying all possibilities, and that the venue of the PNC session has not yet been determined.

In statements to the Qatari Al-RAYAH paper today, Qaddumi said the PLO has overcome the negative results of the Jordanian decision to disengage links with the West Bank and that the PLO has completely assumed its responsibilities and issued its decision on maintaining the present structure and laws and keeping the employees in their jobs.

Qaddumi described the relationship with Jordan as clear, well-defined, frank, and fraternal. He said there is talk about many projects, including the convocation of a Jordanian-Palestinian-Egyptian summit. However, he said he does not believe such a summit will convene.

Qaddumi denied there are direct contacts between the PLO and the U.S. Administration as well as Egyptian moves to hold such contacts or to arrange direct Palestinian-U.S. meetings.

Qaddumi said Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will not leave for New York to attend the UN General Assembly session because we do not expect the UN General Assembly to give more than it gave in the previous session. He said he will head the Palestinian delegation to New York instead of 'Arafat to deliver a speech on behalf of Palestine.

Reportage on Reaction to 'Arafat Cairo Visit

PFLP-GC Statement

JN2209112588 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Statement by "official" PFLP-GC source; date not given]

[Text] As our people's uprising in Palestine is about to end its 10th month, thus achieving further victories and daily accomplishing a new achievement on the path of attaining our people's national goals, and at a time when national forces and factions in the Palestinian arena are seeking to achieve national unity, harness resources, and rally the ranks to confront threats and to foil the efforts of the conspiring forces to strike at and abort our people's uprising, 'Arafat visits Cairo to meet with Husni Mubarak, leader of the Camp David regime, to coordinate the steps to be made.

Mubarak is the first advocate of halting the uprising in Palestine.

The 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting in the present circumstances confirms the following facts:

1. Those pursuing the unilateralist course in the Palestinian arena are continuing to make concessions and are clearly moving along the path of deviation and disavowal of the goals of our people and revolution.

In his meeting with Mubarak 'Arafat is moving from the framework of unilateral statements, calls, and documents to practical implementation, thus complementing his contacts and steps in Budapest and Strasbourg where he declared his recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. The visit takes place at a time when the Egyptian foreign minister is preparing to meet his Zionist counterpart under the auspices of the United States to delegate the foreign minister of the Camp David regime in Egypt to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people in the meeting.

3. 'Arafat's visit to Cairo consolidates the fundamental contacts that never ceased between him and the Camp David regime and emphasizes the persistence of the deviationists to torpedo the bases and principles of struggle and the resolutions adopted by a consensus of Palestinian opinion and to disavow his allies and the decisions on which they agreed at the last [PNC] session.

4. The timing and circumstances of the visit, and its results, are a flagrant provocation of our masses and constitute a disavowal of the martyrs of the revolution and its popular uprising in Palestine.

We in the PFLP-GC, together with the masses of our Palestinian people, believe the situation has become very serious and it is thus necessary for the factions under 'Arafat's leadership—which had pinned great hope on the possibility of controlling 'Arafat and observed their alliance with him on the basis of severing relations with the Camp David regime—to decide their position and to move from a stand of making statements and a policy of condemnation and reservations to an effective and practical stand.

Otherwise, our Palestinian masses will consider them to be a partner in what is happening and a partner in 'Arafat's objectives.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC.

Khalid al-Fahum Comments

JN2209081488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Telephone interview with "PNC Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum by an unidentified reporter—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Khalid al-Fahum, [former] PNC speaker, you are with the Al-Quds radio station, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man. We would like to know your opinion of Yasir 'Arafat's current visit to Cairo.

[Al-Fahum] 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is not surprising. We are accustomed to him making such visits. He has not broken off his relations with Camp David or the Camp David regime since Al-Sadat was in power and through the time of Husni Mubarak.

However, this visit has great significance. 'Arafat is currently trying to promote himself as a commodity for a settlement and to make concessions so he may obtain the approval of the enemy and the United States.

We are surprised by this visit, especially since President Husni Mubarak yesterday received the enemy's ambassador to Egypt for 90 minutes, which is unusual. When ambassadors present their credentials, they usually meet with the head of state for minutes, 4 or 5 minutes.

The fact Mubarak met with the Israeli ambassador for 90 minutes indicates there is some scheme being prepared between the Camp David regime and the Israeli government.

We, therefore, are surprised at the visit, which neither reflects our people's will nor represents the view of the uprising in the occupied territories.

[Reporter] Do you think 'Arafat's visit to Cairo was agreed upon during the recent meetings in Tunis?

[Al-Fahum] I do not think so. The recent meetings in Tunis were attended by factions that did not agree to 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. He usually makes his visits and contacts and places everybody before a fait accompli. The PFLP, for instance, does not agree to his Cairo visit.

[Reporter] Who else?

[Al-Fahum] Others.

[Reporter] Others?

[Al-Fahum] Yes.

[Reporter] Does 'Arafat's visit have any relationship with the meeting that will take place before the end of this month between 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Shi'mon Peres, and George Shultz

[Al-Fahum] Of course. 'Arafat visited Cairo before the meeting to convey through 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid a message from him to the United States and the enemy state. The message stresses to them his readiness to recognize and accept the de-facto situation.

[Reporter] What is your comment on 'Arafat's statement in Cairo about the declaration of a government-in-exile or a provisional government? Why was such a statement made in Cairo in particular?

[Al-Fahum] First, in the recent Tunis meetings, it was agreed that the Executive Committee or the Central Council should declare this at the appropriate time, not now. 'Arafat's statement was a reply, because there was a report from Tunisia that the idea of a provisional government was postponed. 'Arafat wanted to tell them that the idea was not postponed and that it still exists.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Al-Fahum] You are welcome.

Habash Calls Visit 'Violation'

JN2209120088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash has said that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is a clear and flagrant violation of the resolution of the latest PNC session.

Habash said the visit harms the uprising, particularly as it takes place on the eve of the PNC extraordinary session.

Libya

Country Elected Vice Chairman of UN Session

LD2109171588 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] New York, Al-Fatih [September] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Great Al-Jamahiriyah was elected vice-chairman of 43rd session of the U.N. General Assembly which started its meeting yesterday in New York.

This election which was supported by African countries and unanimous world countries members of the U.N. points out the effective and pioneering role assumed by Great Al-Jamahiriyah in realizing the aspirations of peoples for freedom and peace, apart from the trust by world community in the progressive policy of Great Al-Jamahiriyah and its international distinctive influence.

This world consensus has given a new (?blow to) U.S. imperialism which makes every endeavour to wreck the excellent reputation of Great Al-Jamahiriyah by all international forums and organizations.

Polish Economic Delegation Begins Talks

LD1909191088 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The 8th session of the Libyan Arab-Polish mixed commission began this morning in Tripoli.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury made a speech welcoming the members of the Polish delegation and lauding the development of the existing relations of cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and Poland in various fields.

The head of the Polish delegation Michal Janiszewski addressed the meeting asserting his country's desire to consolidate the ways of cooperation between great Jamahiriyah, and Poland.

He said 'Poland is indeed keen to give impetus to this cooperation and develop it further so as to realise the goals of the two friendly peoples. [no end quotation marks as received]

He pointed out that Great Jamahiriyah occupies a special place as far as Poland is concerned.

He added that his country, on its part, is working for the construction of a base for comprehensive cooperation with Great Jamahiriyah, in economic, scientific, cultural, medical and commercial field in addition to other spheres of cooperation.

During the meeting a number of committees were set up and entrusted with the preparation of programmes of cooperation in financial, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural fields as well as projects and drafting.

Agreement Minutes Signed

LD2209144688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The minutes of an agreement between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Polish People's Republic were signed this morning in Tripoli. The minutes of the agreement were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury, on the Libyan side; and by Michal Janiszewski, chief of the office of the Council of Ministers, on the Polish side.

The minutes include increasing the volume of cooperation between the two countries, setting up joint companies, planning a training program for national cadres in the health field, and an agreement on establishing an executive program for the cultural and information fields for the coming years.

Basic People's Congresses Hail Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2209130688 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The masses of the Basic People's Congresses [BPC] throughout the Great Jamahiriyah this evening resumed their first ordinary sessions for 1988.

The BCP's discussed the revolutionary program submitted by the brother leader of the revolution on the 19th anniversary of the great September revolution and the union project between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

The masses of the BCP's hailed the leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid for the great work they are undertaking in order to fulfill the aspirations of the Arab nation and the hope of its masses in the achievement of comprehensive Arab unity.

The masses stressed the importance of the establishment of the union between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria highlighting the great gains which will be made within the framework of this union in the interest of the single people in the two countries and in the entire Arab nation.

The masses affirmed that this union will serve as a great and pioneering step and a powerful push toward the achievement of the unity of the Arab nation and its triumph over its enemies who are trying to disunite it and impose partition and backwardness upon it.

The masses of the BCP's also hailed all the loyal sons of the Arab nation who are working for the sake of Arab unity and all the sincere efforts in this direction. They expressed their pride in the struggle waged by the Arab people in sister Algeria for the sake of the Arab nation and its dignity and victory. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Government To Return Ethiopian Military Aircraft

LD2209195088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 22 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government has agreed to hand back some military planes which were entered to Sudan [as received] during the past couple of years by Ethiopian military pilots looking for political asylum, military sources announced today.

Sudan has taken the move in a bid to better relations between the two countries and as a good gesture in this respect said the military source.

Armed Forces Confront Rebels in Equatoria

JN2209150188 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Sep (SUNA)—This week, the Armed Forces confronted a rebel force, which tried to approach Lado Mountain in Equatoria, and engaged and expelled it from the area with losses in lives and hardware.

The losses included 25 dead in addition to some weapons and ammunition.

In western Equatoria, the Armed Forces have confronted a rebel force while combing the area. The Armed Forces engaged them in a battle, which resulted in the killing of 45 rebels.

The Armed Forces seized nine Kalashnikov rifles and quantity of RPG ammunition.

In the Upper Nile Region, battles resulted in the death of 2 rebels and the seizure of 60 rifles, 2 antiaircraft guns, and a quantity of ammunition.

Prime Minister To Visit YAR, PDRY

JN2209194388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept.25, SUNA—Chairman and members of the Council of the State today received Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Al-Mahdi following the meeting said they reviewed the project set for rehabilitating the regions affected by rains and floods as well as the trip he will carry out next Saturday to the Democratic Republic of Yemen and to the Arab Republic of Yemen.

In this regard, Al-Mahdi said they tackled the bases on which the promoting relations with these two countries should be set up.

Al-Mirghani Discusses Political Program

PM2209131388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Sep 88 p 5

[Interview with Democratic Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani by Mahir 'Uthman in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Uthman] Observers expected the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] to win the parliamentarian elections in view of the support it receives from the broad popular base.

But it has been said that its failure to win a majority was attributed to the fact that before the uprising the party was busy with its external struggle.

Some people believe that the party has no organizational presence; thus, its political program is unclear to the Sudanese masses. What is your reply?

[Al-Mirghani] There were many factors behind the results the DUP achieved in the last elections. As an opposition party, the DUP did not have the opportunity to reorganize itself, especially as the transitional period lasted only 1 year.

Some parties had participated in the al-Numayri regime; that is why they did not have any problem operating in the arena after the uprising.

Regarding the DUP's absence from the arena, as some people believe—what you said—in fact the DUP has been spreading in the arena, as its presence is genuinely felt throughout Sudan.

It is directing the masses. The results of recent elections among farmers, workers, and professionals have proved that the DUP has influence within these sectors.

Actually the question is very strange, because a party without organization or without a clear program or objectives cannot attract these elements which represent life in Sudan. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] After the uprising your party witnessed a major split. Some key elements left it and formed a party they called the National Unionist Party [NUP].

Since then there have been calls to unite the party. Both sides say the differences between them are not ideological.

So, what is the reason for the dispute? Will the division be perpetuated or will the party's unity be restored?

[Al-Mirghani] What I know is that the masses settled this question in the last elections. A number of votes went to those operating under the so-called NUP. We have already overcome that problem. And now the mother party, that is the big party, the DUP, is opening its arms for its sons to return.

In fact many have returned, and one of them now occupies the position of regional minister in the northern region government. So, those returning to the party are treated on an equal basis and they will be promoted within the party according to their present and future efforts.

I do not believe there is now a party called the NUP, because the brothers who were affiliated with that name have issued statements announcing their return to the DUP.

['Uthman] Some observers notice that since the formation of the government Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been in absolute control of the executive authority, and that you are a weak partner—which affects both domestic and foreign policies.

In the past the government was dissolved because of reports on disputes with some DUP ministers. There was talk within your party circles about canceling the coalition and intending to return to the opposition, but you soon joined another governmental coalition.

Then the government was dissolved and formed a number of times. Will you make your mind up about whether to participate in government or in the opposition?

[Al-Mirghani] First of all participation in government is not a gift from anyone, because the Sudanese people did not empower a particular party. That is why the accord or coalition formula remains the ideal one, especially when we take into account that only one third of the Constituent Assembly's term remains.

In fact we are not concerned about power as much as we are concerned about the future of democracy. On this basis, the DUP participates. Participation resulted not from a decision from above, but via the party's institutions represented by the political bureau and the parliamentarian committee. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] There is a feeling that the Sudanese governments formed since the uprising, because of the nature of the coalition, remained at a standstill and could not deal with important Sudanese affairs like the war in the south, debts, and economic problems. Can you name any tangible achievement?

[Al-Mirghani] The legacy is heavy. We inherited it after a 16-year period. It would be unreasonable to think that all problems can be resolved in 1, 2, or 3 years. There are basic problems, namely political stability, the future of democracy, and economic development.

Let us be both frank and clear: If the war in the south does not come to an end there will be no political stability or economic development, because the war is exhausting Sudan's resources, lives, and wealth. So, we must stop this depletion.

That is why the DUP seeks to establish peace, secure a cease-fire, and convene a constitutional national conference.

['Uthman] Are your contacts with John Garang, which seem to be in their early stages, being made purely in the party's name or in the government's name as well?

[Al-Mirghani] They are purely in the name of the party. But this does not prevent us consulting with the allied parties over any results we produce. Actually Ummah Party leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been briefed on the results the DUP reached in Addis Ababa.

[Uthman] With regard to the external arena there were a number of contradictions within the coalition government. For instance, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was closer to Iran in the Iraq-Iran conflict. Whereas your party supported Iraq, although you both represent one government.

There is also the recent crisis concerning unity with Libya. Regular television transmissions were interrupted to announce the formation of joint committees on unity.

That was followed by an uproar when the deputy secretary general of your party, former interior minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, announced he had no knowledge of unity with Libya.

What is your comment?

[Al-Mirghani] In fact I do not want to give an answer on behalf of others. But the DUP maintains a firm and clear stand on all national and Arab issues. It is with Iraq in the Iraq-Iran war. It was with Saudi Arabia regarding the incidents that occurred in Mecca last year and the statements Iran issued regarding the internationalization of the holy place in Mecca.

Moreover, it is with Kuwait against any aggression committed by Iran, such as the launch of missiles and threats against the Gulf states. This stand cannot change. The DUP has adopted this crystal-clear stand in the past.

As for what was announced and the interruption of television transmissions, I dealt with this matter at a press conference during my visit to Kuwait and I do not wish to deal with an issue we have already dealt with and clearly and openly expressed our view on.

It seems that the matter was given more attention than needed.

Locusts Reported in Kordofan, Darfur Areas

JN2109114688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 21, SUNA—Locust swarms have started attacking agriculture schemes in Sawdiri and Umm Badir (Kordofan), Zalingei, Nyala (Darfur) Dabbah in northern region beside other agriculture areas in the White Nile, it was reported today.

Ustaz Ahmad Mahmoud, state minister at the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources told daily AL-KHARTOUM today that despite tremendous efforts exerted by the plant protection department at the Ministry the locust swarms are due to spread in the agricultural areas during the upcoming few days because of its multiplication and breeding in some remote areas which could not be reached by the spray planes or are hard to discover.

He pointed out that despite the international assistance the country still needs urgent assistence particularly in the field of spray planes and helicopters.

The minister pointed out that all indications show the success of the agricultural season if the locust swarms are effectively controlled.

Tunisia

Libya's Al-Humaydi Arrives in Tunis on Visit

LD2109160288 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, Al-Fatih [September] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Major al-Humaydi arrived in Tunis on a visit there to last several days.

He was received at Carthage airport by Mr Ammar, minister of state in charge of the interior.

He was also received by the representative of Great Al-Jamahiriyah there, a number of senior Tunisian officials and members of the representation at the Arab League.

Commenting to Tunisian press and radio on arrival in Tunis, Major al-Humaydi stresses that this visit is different from those paid prior to 7 November. This one goes far beyond official visits on political comments.

It is, he points out, a working visit for the people of Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia especially after the dawning of 7 November under the leadership of the deliverer—President Ben Ali.

This visit aims at promoting the bilateral exertions towards the strategic model action, apart from the course of the unionist action in Arab Maghreb.

Expressing his happiness on being present in Tunis and on the great change in the Tunisian arena, Major al-Humaydi says that the 7 November represents now that aspirations of the Arab nation thereby displaying that the Tunisian people share with their other Arab brothers their aspirations.

The Tunisian role is remarkable and honourable compatible with the civilization and glories of this heroic people after the massive transformation taking place after 7 November.

He adds that the frequent visits and meetings between the leader of the revolution and President Ben Ali laying down the future and advanced bases for excellent brotherly relations have to be maintained and promoted to tie up with the aspirations of the Arab people in Tunisia and Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Such relations have to be an example to follow to win the respect of others and be effective in the Maghreb action we aspire for.

Wishing the Tunisian people progress and prosperity under the new young [word indistinct] leadership, Major al-Humaydi points out that Arabic language and logic prevail now and are used in European capitals. This, he adds, is something the Arab nation and Tunisian people are proud of.

Concluding his comments, he expresses his hope that these endeavours whether at the bilateral or Maghreb levels or the studied practical steps will acheive the aspirations of the one Arab people in Arab Maghreb countries.

Holds Talks

LD2209022788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, 21 Sep (JANA)—Major al-Khawaydi al-Humaydi in Tunis this afternoon received Brother Habib Ammar, Tunisian minister of state for the interior.

During the meeting, which was attended by Brother Abderrahim Zouari, secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally, and the Jamahiriyah's representative to Tunisia, the two sides discussed and reviewed the immense progress achieved in bilateral relations and ways to support and consolidate this in order to fulfill the aspirations and hopes of the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and to help build a Maghreb without borders, as a prelude to comprehensive unity in the Arab nations.

The meeting also examined a number of Arab and international issues of common interest and the two sides exchanged viewpoints on these issues.

Meets President Ben Ali

LD2209131188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, 22 Sep (JANA)—President El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the fraternal Tunisian Republic, this morning received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi at the Palace of the Republic in Tunis.

During the meeting, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi conveyed greetings from the brother leader of the revolution to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to the fraternal Arab people of Tunisia.

The audience, nearly an hour long, noted the importance and role of these continuing meetings in reaffirming the giant unionist steps that have been taken by the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

The audience also looked into new prospects for consolidating these steps towards building an Arab Maghreb to totally unify the Arab motherland. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi pointed out in his statement that this meeting was an opportunity to study the practical steps for unity being examined by Maghreb committees meeting in various Maghreb capitals. He found in President Ben Ali all the pan-Arab eagerness and determination which reflects the will of the Tunisian people and gives impetus to action for Maghreb unity.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi concluded his statement by saying: I found the president sincere in his intentions to consolidate and develop our brotherly relations in a way which will make them strategic in reality and in goals and which will be confirmed in the coming days.

Libya's Jallud Meets Interior, Planning Ministers

LD2109131988 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, received in Tunis this morning Brother Habib Ammar, minister of state for the interior, and Brother Abderrahim Zouari, secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally in sisterly Tunisia. The meeting ws attended by the brother high commissioner of the Great Jamahiriyah in Tunisia.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud also received in Tunis Brother Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of planning in sisterly Tunisia. The meeting was attended by the brother high commissioner of the Great Jamahiriyah in Tunisia.

Islamic Tendency Members Punished 'Symbolically'

LD2109104088 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] You are sentenced to a punishment of 5 years imprisonment but the sentence will not be carried out. This is the judgment, which is curious to say the least, heard yesterday by 12 Tunisian Islamicists of the MTI [Islamic Tendency Movement] in the Tunis court of appeal.

These men, who had received severe sentences during the time of the Bourguiba regime, are thus acquitted today. This does not prevent their lawyers from considering that these sentences are symbolically harsh.

Bahrain

Information Minister on Peace, GCC Cooperation

JN2109080588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Washington, 20 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad has affirmed that freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf is essential for all countries in the region without any exception.

In a statement to VOA, broadcast last night, Al-Mu'ayyad expressed hope that the Iraq-Iran war will end, especially since the international community is interested in ending this war to preserve the rights of all parties.

Al-Mu'ayyad said: Following an end to the Iraq-Iran war, we expect an economic revival and a new vision of security cooperation in the region as a result of the peace that will prevail in the region, God willing.

Al-Mu'ayyad also hailed Iraq's position and said that Iraq completely responded to international efforts to bring about peace in the region. He added that the GCC countries appreciate the countries which seek peace in the region and cooperate with us to reach an honorable formula to end the war.

Al-Mu'ayyad explained that the GCC—not a party in the war—can only bless every good effort to persuade all parties to end it. He pointed out that peace is the only way to preserve the gains, security, and stability of the Arabian Gulf peoples as well as the expected prosperity for the future generations.

Al-Mu'ayyad then spoke about the ninth GCC summit conference to convene in Bahrain next December, stressing that with the end of this war, the conference will have great political significance. He said: We hope the region will concentrate on economic development and cooperation in all fields.

He also said that the world expects the GCC to make decisions affirming that the region seeks further economic and technical cooperation especially with the countries that manitain long-term relations with us. He added that the next GCC summit conference will provide an opportunity for the region's peoples to show their cooperation with their leaders to achieve more regional prosperity.

Al-Mu'ayyad also noted the GCC's great achievements, and said: What is important is that the GCC speaks in one voice and has one political and economic vision. He affirmed that the military and security cooperation among the GCC countries is very important because we live in a sensitive region.

He added that such cooperation will result in further stability, prosperity, and progress for the region's peoples.

Al-Mu'ayyad then referred to cooperation in the information field. He said: This region has begun to address the world in one voice. This in itself is a great political gain, which other regional groupings in the world were not able to reach in such a short time.

Qatari Heir Apparent Arrives for 1-Day Visit

JN2109085588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, arrived in Manama today on a 1-day official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and deputy prime minister [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir, Departs

JN2109193988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Sep (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, left Manama tonight for Doha after a short 1-day visit to Bahrain.

His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah was at the head of those receiving his highness the Qatari heir apparent upon his arrival today, when he held talks dealing with close fraternal bilateral relations, current developments in the region, issues of interest to the GCC, new developments in the Arab arena, and issues of mutual interest.

His highness was seen off by Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister, the ministers, and ranking military and civilian officials.

Papers Review Visit

JN2209190788 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Manama, Sept 22 (GNA)—A Bahraini daily welcomed today the visit paid by Qatari Crown Prince and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani to Bahrain yesterday.

'AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ' said that this visit will leave the same impression as left by the visit of Bahraini Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah to Doha less than two weeks ago. The daily said the two visits reflect the deep rooted relations between the two countries.

The paper pointed to the statement of the Bahraini crown prince yesterday in which he expressed his great optimism towards the outcome of these visits at the directives of H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani.

Meanwhile Qatari daily 'AL-RAYAH' said Qatar and Bahrain are two names for one country and one people. Their ties are not only confined to their Arab affiliation and to the GCC family but also extend deep into blood and family relations between the people of the two sister countries. These relations have not been made by any one but rather they have been created by history to remain strong and to grow and develop, the paper said.

The daily also praised the hospitality accorded to Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani during his visit to Bahrain describing it as an embodiment of the cohesion of the two peoples.

Dealing with the same topic, another Qatari newspaper 'AL-SHARQ' said the hospitality given to Shaykh Hamad by the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and by his heir apparent is a reflection and expression of long-standing relations between the two fraternal countries.

Such happiness and relations were also felt and expressed by the Qatari people when Bahrain's heir apparent visited Qatar recently, the paper said. Qatar always blesses with the spirit of amity and cordiality, the constant renewal of relations among GCC countries for the prosperity of fraternal ties of these countries, the paper said.

Concluding, the paper underlined that the GCC countries namely Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Oman have the same issue of destiny and are a tributary of the Arab nation which extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf.

Foreign Minister Takes Message to Saudi Arabia

JN2109184488 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Manama, Sep 21 (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah returned home from Jeddah today after a short visit to Saudi Arabia.

The Bahraini minister delivered a message from H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah to Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, dealing with bilateral relations and the current situation in the region.

Qatar

Heir Apparent Returns From Visit to Bahrain

JN2109204088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1922 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Doha, 21 Sep (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Doha this evening, coming from Manama after a 1-day visit to Bahrain in response to an invitation from His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, acting prime minister and heir apparent. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Delivers National Day Message

LD2309091988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0410 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 22 Sep [date as received] (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has urged his sons, the citizens, to continue their adherence to Islam's instructions, maintain Islamic sanctities, and contribute effectively to strengthening and firmly establishing the pillars of social stability.

He has also urged them to deploy their abilities and resources to strengthen internal and external security.

This came in a paternal statement made to SPA in which he, may God look after him, stressed that the Kingdom's national day will remain, God willing, a noble symbol of everlasting cohesion between the leadership of this honorable country and every Saudi citizen in it. [passage omitted]

The king stressed that efforts were continuing in regional cooperation, Islamic and Arab solidarity, and, with the international community's help, in persistently maintaining security and establishing peace. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques urged young men to join the military in various professions, describing this as an unparallelled honor. He said the responsibility of protecting and defending Islam required the strong arms of young men, charged with faith and knowledge, serving their religion, country, and nation. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

LD2109153588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1427 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received a message from His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by His Excellency Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when he received him, may God support him, at his office at the Al-Salam Palace this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Receives Bahraini Minister

LD2209023289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Excerpt] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain.

The message was conveyed to the king by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah at Al-Salam palace this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Meets Pakistani Counterpart

LD2009144488 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received at his office in Jeddah this afternoon His Excellency Mahmud Khan, the Pakistani defense minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

The talks between his highness and the Pakistani guest dealt with bilateral relations and means for developing them in various fields.

United Arab Emirates

Deputy Premier on Relations With Egypt, OPEC

NC2109155288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—[Passage omitted] In an interview with the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, UAE deputy prime minister, has praised Egypt's active role in the Arab arena in serving the vital Arab causes. He said no individual or country can deny Egypt's fundamental role in serving the Arab nation's causes and in defending its rights and achievements. [passage omitted]

Referring to developments in the peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, Shaykh Hamdan voiced his hope that these negotiations will resume soon. He asserted that the UAE will spare no effort to help the talks reach their goals to establish peace between Iraq and Iran.

He added that such peace will have positive effects on the Gulf region and noted that the GCC countries have designated Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to follow up these talks.

To a question on the recent U.S. campaign against Iraq alleging that it had used chemical weapons against the Kurds in northern Iraq, the UAE deputy prime minister denounced and expressed astonishment at this campaign.

He said: We believe that the timing of the campaign is designed to detract attention from the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and create a negative atmosphere in the region that will affect the peace efforts.

He believed that the campaign has other goals which concern the Western countries' interests in the Gulf, noting that he can clearly feel Zionist fingers behind this unjust and hasty decision made by the U.S. Senate against Iraq.

Shaykh Hamdan appealed to the United States and the entire world to concentrate their efforts on giving positive support to the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations in order to reach the desired peace.

Commenting on current Palestinian moves on the proclamation of a provisional Palestinian government, Shaykh Hamdan asserted that the UAE supports any Palestinian step in this respect. He remarked that the proclamation of a provisional Palestinian government and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is a Palestinian affair, which has the UAE's support and backing.

He said: We conveyed this stand to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during his recent visit to the UAE. Shaykh Hamdan stressed the need to develop Arab political and financial support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories as an effective means of changing the current situation in the region.

He noted that support for the uprising is related to the unification of the Arab stands without one-upmanship and vocal slogans, and pointed out that Arab support so far is not commensurate with the sacrifices of the Palestinian people and stone-throwing children.

On current developments in the international oil market, the UAE deputy prime minister asserted that through accord, unity, and cohesion, OPEC is capable of regaining its initiative on the oil market through the important cards which it holds.

However, he noted that OPEC should introduce a firm policy of pricing and production in cooperation with non-OPEC oil-producing countries.

Petroleum Minister on Oil Prices, Quotas

JN2009145188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1405 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Sep (WAKH)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, has said that his country's position on its crude oil production quota is clear, firm, and declared.

During his meeting with journalists today, he answered a question as to whether the UAE will demand during the next OPEC meeting that its quota be increased.

He said: The UAE quota is 1.5 million barrels daily; it is fixed and declared. He added that the UAE will support any resolution adopted by the next OPEC ministerial conference concerning an increase of Iraq and Iran quotas. The conference, he said, is the party authorized to discuss quotas.

Al-'Utaybah stressed in his statement—carried by WAM—that the OPEC ministerial price committee will soon meet to discuss the report of the organisation's

Secretary General, Dr Subroto, which he prepared following visits to a number of OPEC member states and discussions on current developments in the international oil market, which witnessed a big drop in prices.

He pointed out that the current decline in oil prices is basically attributed to a number of international political and economic factors that affected the international oil market. These markets were also affected to some degree by natural factors, which play a role in determining the levels of international oil supply and demand, he said.

Paper Says U.S. Behind Israeli Satellite Launch

JN2209125088 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Sep 88 p 1

[Editorial: "A Serious Development in the Conflict"]

[Text] The Zionist entity suprised the world yesterday by launching a satellite. All indications are that the main purpose of this satellite is to spy on the Arab states.

The question that immediately comes to everyone's mind is: How did Israel obtain satellite technology which is possessed by only seven countries in the world—among them the United States and the Soviet Union? How was the project financed, knowing that the Israeli Treasury cannot bear its costs?

There is no doubt that the Zionist entity has sought the help of the United States, which has offered its expertise in the satellite industry and advanced technology—especially the optical equipment used for observation on these satellites.

Although U.S. satellites used to offer their services to the Israeli enemy army by photographing the movement of troops during wars as well as Arab military installations, the enemy has found that such information could continue to be rather limited and subservient to U.S. policies despite the fact that these policies are in line with Israeli plans.

This serious U.S. help to Israel to ensure its military superiority over the Arab states comes at a time when the United States and other major powers are pressuring the Western companies, which are supplying technical equipment to the Egyptian-Iraqi-Argentine "Condor" missile project, to stop this cooperation in order to abort the project and any attempt to develop Arab technology.

The Arab states must, during the emergency meetings they are holding at all levels, discuss this serious development which is threatening the security of the entire Arab World from the east to the west, including frontline states and others, especially since this Israeli satellite is only the beginning of a new enemy program to produce sophisticated espionage satellites that will enable the Zionist entity to obtain satellite photographs and precise information on the Arab World.

Yemen Arab Republic

London Paper Interviews Foreign Minister

PM2109083588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 88 p 2

[Zaki Musa report: "Al-'Iryani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Relations Between Two Parts of Yemen Developing Rapidly"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—YAR Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani has described the speech delivered by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at the European Parliament in Strasbourg as very important in terms of winning Western support for the Arab position on the conflict to achieve the objective sought regarding a solution to the Palestinian problem on a just basis.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Sanaa, Dr al-'Iryani said that the popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories has caused a significant change in Western public opinion, which, if maintained, is bound to impose new facts which the Hebraic state will have to accept.

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani talked about relations between the two parts of Yemen, saying that they are developing rapidly as a result of consultations and coordination by officials in both Sanaa and Aden—through exchanges of visits.

The Yemeni foreign minister pointed out that he intends to attend the 41st ordinary session [not further specified] to be held in New York at the end of the month, and he will seize the opportunity to contact a number of Arab foreign ministers at the session to coordinate and consult over a number of important and urgent Arab issues.

On the nonaligned conference in Nicosia, Dr al-Iryani said that the results of the meetings were more positive and clear than previous ones. He attributed this to the debates, and to the frankness and clarity of participants over the movement's future.

As a result, a committee from the coordination office was assigned to meet at a later date to discuss new developments in the international situation and draw up new policies to match recent developments at various levels.

Dr al-'Iryani said that the YAR has been chosen as committee member and will spare no efforts in raising Arab problems and anxieties so that this important international bloc may devote significant attention to them.

On Sanaa's position on the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile, Minister al-'Iryani said: The PLO has not yet discussed this issue with us. Nor has it declared its position on the issue.

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives in Sanaa, Makes Statement

JN2109131888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Brother Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit.

During the visit, 'Aziz will convey a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, on bilateral relations, developments in the ongoing negotiations between Iraq and Iran to achieve peace in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 598, and Arab and international issues of common interest.

In a statement to SABA', the Iraqi minister expressed happiness for the visit, during which he will meet, consult, and exchange viewpoints with Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee.

He noted the strong fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and the continuous consultations between the two leaderships in all circumstances to discuss all issues.

Brother Tariq 'Aziz affirmed the pride of Iraq—president, leadership, and people—in our country's support for fraternal Iraq in its imposed war with Iran. 'Aziz also noted the challenges facing Iraq in the peacemaking stage. He affirmed our country's support for Iraq's just demands.

Concluding his statement, Tariq 'Aziz praised Arab solidarity achieved throughout the past years. [passage indistinct]

Tariq 'Aziz was received by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; a representative of the Republican Protocols; and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Meets With President

JN2109200988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Sanaa, 21 Sep (INA)—YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening received President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy Tariq 'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed an oral message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother, President Saddam Husayn.

The message deals with the ongoing negotiations between Iraq and Iran on the implementation of the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, issues of mutual interest, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

PDRY Culture Minister Visits Prime Minister

JN2209133288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received at noon today Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, Central Committee member and minister of culture and information in the southern part of the homeland.

During the meeting, they reviewed the work of the emergency meeting of the general assembly of the Yemeni Company for Tourism. They also discussed steps of unionist action and boosting them in a manner yielding positive and direct results for the Yemeni masses and strengthening their confidence in an imminent restoration of the unity of Yemen within the framework of a unified state.

The meeting was attended by Brother Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and Standing Committee member.

Meets With Counterpart

JN2209191688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Brothers Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and Standing Committee member, and Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, Central Committee member and minister of culture and information in the southern part of the homeland, held a meeting at the Ministry of Information and Culture this morning.

They discussed the spheres of coordination and integration in the fields of information and cultural action between the two ministries. They also discussed media coverage in the two parts of the homeland of our people's celebrations of the 26th anniversary of the immortal 26 September revolution and the 25th anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution in light of serious positive orientations to achieve the most important objectives of the Yemeni revolution by restoring Yemeni unity, which the most precious and most sacred hope of our Yemeni people throughout the dear land of Yemen.

It has been agreed to carry out a number of activities and actions aimed at entrenching these noble nationalist objectives.

The meeting was attended by Brother Muzaffar Taqi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Inforamation and Culture for the culture sector, and Brother Muhammad Salih al-Wali, adviser to the Ministry of Culture and Information in the southern part of the homeland.

Hammadi on 'U.S. Campaign,' Howe Talks

JN2309102288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] London, 23 Sep (WAKH)—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Iraq highly values the noble and sincere stand that the Arab brothers, particularly those in the Gulf countries and the Arabian Peninsula, have adopted in support of Iraq in its war against the Iranian aggression.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in London before leaving London for Baghdad late last night, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq rejects New York as the venue for the negotiations with Iran for meany reasons, chief among which is the biased stand of the United States and the fact that Iraq is not satisfied with the security arrangements that could be made.

Dr Hammadi said that his country's decision to divert Shatt al-'Arab will be seriously studied.

On his meetings with British officials, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said that in his talks with these officials he sought to clarify the results of the Geneva negotiations. He also affirmed to them that the media campaign to harm Iraq under the pretext that it [illegible] used chemical weapons is baseless.

Dr Hammadi explained that the United States, which has started this campaign, has retracted its stand after failing to substantiate its claims.

On the other hand, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said Iraq is being pressured to offer concessions in the peace negotiations with Iran. Dr Sa'dun Hammadi told the Abu Dhabi Al-ITTIHAD today that the Americans try to portray Iraq as the intransigent party in the negotiations, and that Iraq has informed all parties that the one who calls for freedom of navigation in the Gulf and for clearing Shatt al-'Arab cannot be described as intransigent.

The Iraqi minister said that the West wants Iran to score a political victory in the negotiations since Iraq has scored a military victory to settle the issue according to the postulate that there is no victor and no vanquished. He added that the big countries want to end this problem in any way whatsoever and do not want to achieve justice.

On his talks with Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said that he has asked the United Kingdom to verify U.S. claims that Iraq had used chemical weapons against the Kurdish rebels and not to take them at face value because there is no evidence substantiating the U.S. claims.

On the impact of the U.S. campaign on diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Washington, Dr Hammadi said that the Americans have not undertaken any tangible thing against Iraq's interests in spite of their current campaign.

He affirmed that Baghdad wil never accept any U.S. stand that is not based on equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in domestic affairs.

'Aziz Makes Statement on Chemical Weapons 17 Sep

JN2209155488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Iraq respects and abides by all the provisions of international law and international agreements unanimously approved by the international community, including the Geneva protocol of 1925—banning the use of chemical weapons, poisonous gases, and bacteriological methods of warfare—and other agreements within the framework of international humanitarian law, as long as others—whoever they may be—abide by these agreements and respect charters and treaties as an integral whole.

Tariq 'Aziz said this in a statement to INA. Following is the text of the statement:

Iraq has affirmed on all occasions and in all international meetings it has attended during the past years, including the UN General Assembly and the Security Council meetings, that it respects all the provisions of international law and international agreements as an integral whole.

Regardless of the tendentious campaign carried out by well known quarters and circles in the United States and some Western countries—whose deliberate aims and motives have been unmasked by Iraqi officials—and to remove any ambiguity that might have arisen as a result of this premeditated campaign, Iraq respects and abides by all the provisions of international law and international agreements that were unanimously approved by the international community, including the Geneva protocol of 1925, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons, poisonous gases, and bacteriological methods of warfare, and the other agreements within the framework of international humanitarian law, as long as others, whoever they might be, abide by these agreements and respect charters and treaties as an integral whole.

Official Denies Chemical Weapons Injuries

JN2309135988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1233 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Ankara, 23 Sep (INA)—Bernard Beverley, head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], has denied there were any traces of chemical weapons among the Iraqi Kurds who crossed the border to Turkey.

In a statement today following the delegation's visit to the Sylubi [name as received] camp in the Mardin Province which contains several thousand Kurds, the ICRC official said that following contacts and researches in the camps and meetings with many patients in hospitals, there were no chemical weapons injuries among the Iraqi Kurds.

The ICRC official also said that most of the diseases found there are diseases—diarrhea, trachoma, and allergies—which have nothing to do with chemical weapons.

It has been learned that the ICRC delegation, which arrived in Turkey at the beginning of this week, made inspection tours of the Diyarbakir and Sylubi camps.

41,920 Kurds Benefit From General Amnesty

JN2209181988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—The number of Kurds who benefited from the general amnesty issued by the RCC has reached 41,920 citizens since the issuance of the decision on 6 September. There are 10,194 women; 21,117 children; and 1,002 old men.

Delhi Reports Minister Tiwari's Official Visit

BK2209075888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.K. Tiwari, now on an official visit to Iraq, is to attend a cultural festival at Babylon today. Forty countries, including India, are participating in the festival. Mr Tiwari will also have talks with the Iraqi leaders.

The All India Radio Gulf correspondent, Jagmohan Mathur, reports that special significance is being attached to the ministerial-level visit which comes after a gap of 3 years and is the first since the Gulf cease-fire came into force.

Finance Minister Departs for IMF Meetings

JN2209123988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif left for the FRG today heading a delegation to participate in the annual meetings of the Board of Governors of the IMF, the international center for resolving investment problemss, and the international agency for ensuring investment. These meetings will begin in Berlin on Tuesday.

The minister told INA that the meetings will discuss world economic prospects, international coordination on economic policies, developments in working out a debts strategy, and the member states' unpaid financial obligations to the IMF.

He pointed out that the meetings will also discuss the allocations and limits of the special withdrawal rights in the IMF in the coming year, the transfer of revenues to developing states, and the general increase in the World Bank's capital.

He explained that these meetings will be preceded by meetings on the ministerial level for the 24-member group of the developing states, for the transitional committee on reforming the international monetary order, and for the development committee.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Arab Tour 22 Sep

JN2209185688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, returned to Baghdad tonight after a 4-day tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the YAR, and Jordan.

The personal envoy conveyed messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah of Bahrain, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of YAR, and King Husayn of Jordan on bilateral relations, the ongoing negotiations between Iraq and Iran to achieve peace, and the current Arab situation.

Tunisia's Baccouche Departs After 3-Day Visit

JN2209200688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this evening following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Hedi Baccouche voiced his satisfaction over the positive results of the visit—results that will effectively contribute toward enhancing the prospects of Iraqi-Tunisian cooperation.

Baccouche was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; and a number of cabinet ministers.

Al-Asad Labeled 'Slave of the Charlatans'

JN2209145788 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p2

["With the Events" column by Riyadh 'Abd Barakat: "The Agents Rejoice Over the Masters' Stands"]

[Text] The slave of the charlatans, Hafiz al-Asad, received with great satisfaction and interest, the U.S. Senates' decision against victorious Iraq. This decision is

full of lies, forgeries, and falsehoods. He was incited by his Zionist allies' instructions and by their hidden hatred against Iraq's clear victory against their ally—Tehran's regime.

Although the slave of the charlatans is currently busy helping the Tel Aviv Zionists in their repression and confrontation of the valiant Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory, and although he is busy with his oppressive and police practices against the Lebanese forces and his treacherous attempts to confiscate Lebanese decisionmaking—replacing it with a terrorist regime similar to his own, which is an agent of the Zionists—he considered the U.S. Senate's decision a great victory for the mercenary, rejected, and agent forces in the north of heroic Iraq.

These forces were captives of his allies' dreams and illusions in the imperialist and Zionist circles, which have been using them for long time to instigate acts of sabotage, sedition, and confusion in Iraq's Kurdistan autonomous region to hamper the giant strategic development projects, which the victorious leader Saddam Husayn was very eager to implement on their scheduled dates to improve the autonomous region and to develop it so that our Kurdish people's aspirations in a prosperous and free life are achieved.

The slave of the charlatans, Hafiz al-Asad, sees in the U.S. Senate's decision his dream to consolidate his treacherous role of backing and supporting their paid agents inside Iraq, which has achieved a clear victory and imposed peace by force.

It is not strange that the slave of the charlatans, Hafiz al-Asad, is pleased by the U.S. Senate's decision. It represents the true nature of the Zionist plot to ruin the clear Iraqi victory after it became a reality known everywhere.

It is also an exposed attempt to divert attention from the valiant Palestinian uprising and from the oppression and expulsion, to which the revolutionary Palestinian people are subjected inside the occupied territory, and to give their ally, the disintegrating Tehran regime, the opportunity to continue its prevarication, trickery, and procrastination, which it has adhered to in the current Geneva talks since 25 August.

Iraq destroyed the conspiracy of the Zionist allies in Damascus, Tel Aviv, and Tehran, defeating it through 8 years of war with full capability and power and forcing them to accept the international community's will, represented by Resolution No 598.

Iraq proved that it is bigger than the plots of the Zionists and their vile, treacherous allies and is able to foil the conspiracy led by the U.S. Senate and by imperialist and Zionist circles after experience has taught it so many lessons of capability in all fields.

Peres Leaves for France, U.S.; Comments on Talks

TA2309064188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left this morning for Paris, where he will hold talks with leading French Government officials.

He will later proceed to New York to attend the UN General Assembly session, in the course of which he will confer with Shevardnadze and will take part in a meeting with President Reagan and the Egyptian foreign minister to discuss the continuation of the peace process. Our correspondent Meron Tzur spoke with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning.

[Begin recording] [Peres] It is a very serious mistake to try to meet the PLO halfway. Anyone who does so is actually coming to terms with the fact that the PLO continues to engage in terrorism, that it has not accepted UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and that it has not recognized the State of Israel.

It is inconceivable that all, or almost all, the countries in the world should accept UN Resolution 242, but that the resolution should not be implemented only because of the PLO's whims. Israel will definitely not talk to anybody who shoots, throws stones, or threatens with terrorism, and I will make this abundantly clear.

[Tzur] Mr Peres, reports have been leaked alleging that contacts between yourself and the PLO leader took place by remote control, through French writer Marek Halter. Can you confirm or deny these reports? What do you say?

[Peres] Both Marek Halter and I have denied those reports, which are totally unfounded. I think I am being drawn into the picture in a bid to make this vermin appear more attractive. I have held no contacts, nor have I given or received any messages whatsoever; I have no messages other than those I voice in public.

[Tzur] This morning's edition of LE MONDE carries an article written by you in which you hint that the superpowers should get involved in the conflict in the Middle East. What is the truth?

[Peres] That is not correct. I wrote that the current involvement of the superpowers, particularly that of the Soviet Union, is limited to supplying weapons. I am saying that they should get involved by providing peace.

[Tzur] Mr Peres, you will proceed from Paris to the UN General Assembly session in New York where you will probably confer with foreign ministers of countries, such as the PRC, the Soviet Union, and East European countries, which do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

What will be your main message in the UN General Assembly and in your talks with those foreign ministers?

[Peres] In all those meetings I will explain Israel's position, of course. I will demand that any country wishing to take part in the peace process contribute to peace itself, first and foremost by establishing unequivocal, unambiguous, and full relations with the State of Israel.

It is inconceivable that a country should want to play a role in the process without recognizing us.

I will also address the Arab world and tell it: You are always making demands of the State of Israel, but what have you actually contributed to peace? Peace is not a disgrace, a clandestine affair, or a matter of secret diplomacy. Certain meetings can be held secretly, but support for peace cannot be kept secret.

I will definitely call on the Arab countries to come out of the closet, drop their misgivings, and openly state whether or not they are in favor of peace. Incidentally, peace can only be made with the State of Israel and cannot be made without the State of Israel. [end recording]

'Satisfaction' Over Meeting With Rocard

TA2309123088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred in Paris with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and will meet with President Francois Mitterrand this afternoon.

Our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts reports that the peace process in our region, Israel's relations with the EEC and new plans for cooperation with France in the industrial-security sphere were discussed in the Peres-Rocard meeting.

Minister Peres expressed his satisfaction about the meeting and said Rocard had promised him help in settling Israel's relations with the EEC.

Prime Minister Rocard told our correspondent that the meeting between the French minister of foreign affairs and the PLO leader had been a routine matter and should not be attributed too much importance.

Peres Examines Mideast Peace Prospects

PM2309092088 Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Sep 88 p 2

[Article by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres: "The Palestinians Must Clearly Opt For Peace"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is expected in Paris on Friday 23 September for a "private" visit during which he will meet with the main French leaders.

Prior to these talks, he has written the following article reaffirming Israel's viewpoint on prospects for peace in the Near East.

There are deep differences of opinion in Israel on the country's future. Some people think that the solution lies in territory, territorial integrity, and others—including me—think that geography alone is meaningless unless population is taken into consideration. In other words, men shape the destiny of their land, just as much as the land shapes the destiny of men.

For 2,000 years, the Jewish people constituted a minority in almost all countries in the world. A century ago, the Zionist movement devoted itself to building a Jewish majority in a single country—the Jewish people's country. The Jewish state means a state in which Jews have a clear majority. If that majority is undermined, doubt is cast on the state itself and its security.

But, although there are serious disagreements in Israel, there is unanimity on how to overcome them. This is the advantage of a democratic system. It is possible to make decisions with voting slips, there is no need to use bullets.

On 1 November, Israeli citizens will have to vote to decide their future. Even if the election produces a clear result, Israel will have to face the situation in the Arab world, which is less clear.

To promote the strategy of peace, two questions are now on the agenda: a solution to the Palestinian problem and building peace between Jordan and Israel. Israel is ready to take part in finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. We do not want to dominate another people, we do not want to humiliate the Palestinians.

The movement which I represent—the party which won the largest number of votes in the 1981 and 1984 elections—is ready for a historic compromise which would contain a territorial element with the aim of solving the Palestinian problem.

I am convinced that there should be negotiations leading to such a solution. The Arab countries do not have the necessary strength to dictate a solution to Israel, and Israel is not prepared to accept a diktat.

I am prepared to make concessions to achieve peace. However, I refuse to bow to force.

The PLO: A Straitjacket

The opening of negotiations depends on the starting positions. There cannot be any very decisive negotiations. In this instance, negotiations will start at a time when the positions of the various sides are very far apart, the only point of agreement being to hold negotiations. The aim of these negotiations is precisely to overcome differences of opinion.

The main question is to establish who will represent the Palestinians. Many Palestinians insist that the PLO should be their sole representative. However, the problem is that this organization claims it is possible to conduct negotiations and give press conferences while indulging in acts of terrorism and violence.

No responsible Israeli will conduct negotiations with a gun at his head. Guns mean fighting. Anybody wishing to negotiate must lay down his arms and come armed with political proposals. The PLO leadership can reach agreement.

The Palestinian people do not have any democratic procedure for making decisions, and the various PLO factions do not agree on the solution they want. These are the underlying reasons for this unacceptable mixture of terrorism and meaningless statements.

Ahmad Jibril, Abu Musa, and their Syrian bosses are demanding territorial integrity, including the State of Israel, just as they claim to represent all Palestinians, including those who live in Jordan.

The welcome which 'Arafat received in Europe is pointless. It is not Europe or even Israel which is preventing 'Arafat from making a decision. The institution he has created has become a straitjacket, and a constraint on his freedom.

It is the inhabitants of the territories who are paying the price. The PLO has tried to take advantage of the poverty of the inhabitants in those territories to force them to adopt a military option against Israel.

The inhabitants have tried to wrest a political solution from the PLO. This solution has not yet been found, because that organization is incapable of making a decision.

Jordan suffered a heavy blow in June at the Algiers summit of Arab leaders. The latter denied it the right to represent the Palestinians and portrayed it as an obstacle to the solution of their problems. Jordan therefore decided—perhaps temporarily—to sever its ties with the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

This, despite King Husayn's announcement that he was not disengaging himself from the peace process. Ultimately the PLO will have to choose between two options: support from Syria—a country that does not want peace and that does not accept Israel's existence—or a dialogue with Jordan.

In view of the splits within the PLO, it is only with Jordan that the PLO can formulate a policy of negotiations with Israel.

Dangerous Status Quo

Jordan too has to make a decision: If it abandons the Palestinian cause and the resulting conflict, we can negotiate our bilateral points of disagreement. If it adheres to the Palestinian conflict it must adhere to efforts to resolve it.

Jordan must abandon its secretiveness on the subject of peace. It must say out loud whether it represents only itself, in which case it must add what kind of state it wants to be—a state seeking peace or a country bound to the status quo, which could degenerate into war.

The time has come for the Arab countries and the Palestinians to stop merely stating their demands with respect to Israel. They must clearly and publicly announce what kind of contribution they are willing to make to peace—to peace with Israel.

The Israelis will vote, Israel will make its decision, and thus the Israeli option will emerge. Even if it is not followed by an immediate Arab response, Israel will take the initiative of a peace process and refuse to allow itself to be dragged into a process of war. Peacemaking is no favor. Those who need peace must work to secure it.

I profoundly believe that we all need peace—both Israel and the Arab states, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druzes, and people of all other religions. The time has come to make peace. This, in a world that has discovered the futility of war, its tragic cost to mankind and society.

Perhaps the time has come for the major powers to intervene, to play their part in a world of "demilitarization" of foreign policy, in a world of "politicization" of armed conflicts. A world where wisdom will replace violence.

Rabin 'Narrowly' Escapes Khan Yunus 'Attack'
TA2309070488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Sep 88 p 20

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin narrowly escaped being hit by a building block yesterday while visiting Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip, and 24 Palestinians were shot and wounded during clashes with troops in the territories, according to Palestinian and IDF reports. [passage omitted]

The attack on Rabin took place moments after he stopped in central Khan Yunus to talk to local merchants who were complaining about poor business.

Suddenly security men and journalists crowding around the minister heard a heavy object crash behind them. One security man said he saw a building block hit the balcony some five meters from the point where Rabin was standing. Debris showered the street.

Several security men rushed towards the site from which the stone was apparently thrown and OC [Officer Commanding] Southern Command Aluf [Major General] Yitzhaq Mordekhay shouted after them "Don't go wild." It was not clear whether they had made any arrests.

Rabin and some aides said they had not been aware of the attack, and Aluf Mordekhay, who had rushed into an alleyway following some soldiers, told a reporter the soldiers had gone upstairs "only to observe the area."

Rabin was later whisked away and his convoy drove fast past the refugee camp and other parts of the town which has been a site of recent clashes with the IDF. [passage omitted]

Rabin Rejects PLO Talk on Interim Arrangement
TA2209105688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that all the talk by the PLO and other elements concerning the possibility of transferring the territories to some international element for an interim period until a final agreement is reached is nothing but nonsense. The IDF and the State of Israel are the ruling force in the area and will remain there until a solution is found.

The defense minister noted that the effort to reduce violence in the territories is continuing and that the plastic bullets are providing a new dimension.

He noted that arrests of members of the popular committees are also continuing. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that Minister Rabin made these remarks while touring the Gaza Strip.

In response to publications in Paris alleging that Shim'on Peres asked 'Arafat for a grace period to help the Alignment's election campaign, Rabin said that in his opinion, this was a journalistic canard.

Commenting on Abie Nathan's meeting with 'Arafat, Rabin said he regrets that a man as kind and honest as Abie should commit an innocent act bordering on the banal in view of the fact that the main PLO demands have not changed.

HAMAS, Unified Command 'Coordinating' Stands
TA2209110688 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Sep 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] The fundamentalist Islamic movements will reject any compromise between the Zionists and the PLO based on partitioning the country into two states.

Despite this approach, the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) and the Unified National Command of the Uprising (which is identified with the PLO's supporters in the territories) have been secretly coordinating their positions to prevent the intifada [uprising] from coming to an end because of differences of opinion between Palestinian nationalists and religious elements.

This was revealed by Bassam Jarrar, considered one of the most outstanding leaders of HAMAS in the West Bank and the most prominent spiritual leader of the Muslim Brothers in Judaea and Samaria, in an exclusive interview, the first ever given by a HAMAS leader to the Israeli press.

According to him, HAMAS is a coalition deriving its inspiration from the Muslim Brothers and born as a result of the intifada. As he sees it, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin represents the spiritual side, while HAMAS is supposed to deal with practical problems.

Shaykh Jarrar, who is making his first appearance before the Israeli public here, says that the Islamic Movement not only aspires to conquer all the areas of Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, but the whole world.

It plans to impose an orthodox Islamic regime wherein the rights of religious minorities would be guaranteed according to the precepts of the Koran.

The meeting with the religious leader was held at his house on the outskirts of Al-Birah, a modern house down the road from the settlement of Pesagot.

Except for his beard, there are no external signs attesting to his affiliations; however, he went to great lengths to keep us from seeing his wife. He is a teacher at the UNRWA Training Center in Ramallah. Every week he preaches before large audiences in mosques in Al-Birah.

Asked whether minorities would enjoy political autonomy, Jarrar said:

"We and all those who do not embrace Islam would enjoy the same rights and obligations, except for the right to be elected caliphs. Islam does not mention collective rights. The duty of the ruler is to ensure religious freedom. Political issues in various places would be settled according to local traditions. There is no absolute answer."

According to Shaykh Jarrar, all religions, with the exception of Islam, are false.

According to Shaykh Jarrar, the crisis in relations between the Unified National Command and HAMAS resulted from the PLO's intention to strike an unrequited compromise.

"HAMAS has been trying to warn the Palestinian national movement that such attempts are not good. The PLO wants to liberate all of Palestine and is seeking the support of the Islamic movement to this end. One must bear in mind that some factions of the PLO embrace Marxism and Leninism. The Marxists have a global outlook, while Fatah has a narrow national outlook. We want a global solution, but our way runs diametrically opposed to that of the left wing."

Ofeq-1 Completes Orbit 48 'Perfectly Operational'

TA2209180688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Excerpt] For those who ask themselves where Ofeq-1 is now orbiting, and how many times it has circled the globe, let us announce that the Israeli satellite is continuing to orbit planet Earth without any hitches.

This is reported by our scientific affairs correspondent Meron Tzur, citing Israel Aircraft Industries sources. Here is his updated report:

Ofeq-1, which is currently orbiting the globe, is living up to all the expectations people here on earth have of it. In the control room of the Mabat plant, which manufactured it, there is a general feeling of more than just satisfaction.

The computer and other instruments in the control room show that within seconds, according to an atomic clock, Ofeq-1 will begin sending signals. It has indeed been doing just that, with perfect precision. [preceeding sentences as heard]

At 1330, the Israeli-made satellite completed its 48th orbit of the globe. Indications are that all its computerized, energy-propelled, and electro-optical systems are perfectly operational.

Its orbit ranges from the perigee point, or lower point, of 250 km, to 1,150 km—its apogee, or highest altitude point. [passage omitted]

Further on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

3 Wounded in Nabulus Riots

TA2209121288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] This morning riots took place in the Nabulus casbah. Initial reports from hospitals in the city mention three men wounded by IDF gunfire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that masked youths threw stones at the soldiers. Some of the youths were armed with axes.

9 Reported Wounded in Nabulus

TA2209161088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Report by 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Text] The Nabulus casbah remains a problematic center of riots. Today, in a violent riot, youths hoisted PLO flags and threw stones at IDF soldiers. Some of them also carried axes. Military sources say that the IDF dispersed the rioters with determination and steadfastness.

It was later reported from Al-Ittihad Hospital that nine wounded people were admitted. Some of them were said to be wounded by gunshots.

In other areas of Judaea and Samaria today order was usually maintained. Shops opened and laborers have left for work very early after being prevented from crossing the Green Line during the Yom Kippur holiday. City councils, public transportation, and government offices functioned as usual.

The town of Qalqilyah, the villages of 'Azzun and Dannabah, and the refugee camps of Balatah and Al-Am'ari are currently under curfew.

3 Injured in Gaza

TA2209181288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] This afternoon, three rioters were injured in the Gaza District. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in a disturbance in Khan Yunus two youths were hurt by IDF gunshots, one of them seriously. Another youth was injured during a riot in the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

Bus Passengers Throw Stones

TA2209195588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An Egged bus was pelted with rocks near Qiryat Arba' today. The driver sustained slight facial injuries and the vehicle was seriously damaged.

In retaliation for the attack, dozens of passengers got off the bus and threw stones at Arab vehicles traveling along the same road.

In the Silwan area of East Jerusalem, a Border Police unit was forced to use tear gas and fire rubber bullets this evening following two stoning incidents. No one was hurt.

Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that there were several incidents in which stones and bottles were thrown in the East Jerusalem area today. No one was hurt.

Iraq's 'Aziz Visits During Arab, Gulf Tour

JN2209105488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Amman, 22 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, arrived here from Sanaa today on a brief visit to Jordan.

The president's envoy is making an Arab and Gulf tour. So far, he has visited Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the YAR.

During the tour, the Iraqi envoy conveyed messages from President Saddam Husayn dealing with the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, bilateral relations, and the current Arab situation.

Tariq 'Aziz told an INA correspondent in Sanaa earlier today that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asked him to convey greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his wishes that a just peace be achieved.

He said the message conveyed to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealt with the strong relations between the two fraternal countries, developments of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, and Arab and international issues.

'Aziz pointed out that he also held talks with Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and Arab and international issues. Views during the talks were identical, he added.

Tariq 'Aziz said he is bringing a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, to acquaint him with developments in the ongoing negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

In an arrival statement to journalists, the Iraqi envoy said that the message deals with the negotiations between Iraq and Iran to achieve peace on the basis of Resolution No 598, issues related to the strong fraternal relations between Iraq and Iran, and issues of common interest.

He noted that he had conveyed similar messages to the leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the YAR.

'Aziz said that the consultations between President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn are a firm and stable element in relations between the two sisterly countries.

He said: The two leaderships are keen to acquaint each other with the development of events. It pleases me to make this visit and to meet with my brother and colleague, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and exchange views on issues of interest to the Foreign Ministries in Iraq and Jordan.

He said that, during the first two sessions of direct talks between Iraq and Iran, Iraq presented logical and just issues related to the agreement on the arrangements of the cease-fire—observed on 20 August.

He said: We affirmed the need to respect complete freedom of navigation in international waters, the Gulf, and the Strait of Hormuz.

We also called for the immediate dredging of Shatt al-'Arab to make it good for navigation. We called for making these two points a part of the cease-fire arrangements in the air, at sea, and on the ground.

He added that Iran's stand was characterized by procrastination, prevarication, and rejection of sound logic. The Iranian delegation did not agree on these two logical issues, so we wasted much time on unproductive arguments. In 3 weeks there [in Geneva], we held two meetings without any results.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that direct negotiation is the method on which we depend to reach a common understanding of Resolution No 598 and an agreement on the arrangements and timing of its implementation. The Iranians are playing the game of procrastination to create crises, but Iraq enjoys self-confidence and patience.

He noted that the Iranians insisted on the war for 8 years. We did not lose patience; we persisted, fought, and achieved victory at the end. Therefore, Iran's political stubbornness will lead nowhere. As they were defeated in the war and admitted, at the end, that peace is the correct path for relations among peoples and countries, they will discover after their procrastination and maneuvering that peace should be achieved through the recognition of the two parties' legitimate rights and should be based on justice and logic.

It might take them a long time to realize this, but, in the end, they will discover the fact. We hope that the international community—the United Nations in particular—will provide the circumstances to continue direct talks. Through this road, understanding and agreement can be achieved regardless of the time spent.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq is confident in its ability to struggle to secure its rights. It is also convinced of the soundness of its stand and the justice of its cause. Iraq has the determination to struggle politically as it did militarily to achieve its legitimate rights. It has the capability also to defend its rights and explain them to the world.

He said: I believe that the fair countries that deal with the situation fairly value the justice of Iraq's demands and the legal and logical bases on which they are based.

Tariq 'Aziz said: It was clear that the media campaign launched recently was tendentious and premeditated. We challenged those who planned this campaign to prove their lies and accusations through evidence, but they failed.

Tariq 'Aziz said that some parties are trying to retreat and others still insist on their stands. He affirmed that the Arab nation—and this a feeling of joy and pride—has discovered from the first moment that this campaign is premeditated and of a Zionist nature whose aim is to tarnish the Iraqi victory and cover up Iran's procrastination and illogical stand at the negotiations.

The most important thing is the conviction of the Arab nation and the regional peoples in this basis. After all, this campaign will collapse gradually and all its cards will fall one after another. We are confident of this.

INA correspondents in Amman said that Tariq 'Aziz informed Prince Hasan of the Iraqi view on the peace talks and Iraq's complete adherence to Security Council Resolution No 598 to achieve a comprehensive and just peace as well as its rejection of any attempt or maneuver to divide the resolution so that the cease-fire with Iran will not turn into a mere truce.

Tariq 'Aziz conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, as well as the Iraqi leaderships' and people's pride in and appreciation for Jordan's genuine stands and support for Iraq in war and peace.

The meeting was attended by Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, a number of senior Jordanian officials, and Iraq's ambassador in Amman, Ghafil Jasim Husayn.

Sees Crown Prince, Departs

JN2209180488 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Excerpts] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, this afternoon received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who gave him a letter from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Husayn concerning the status of the Iraq-Iran peace talks in Geneva and Iraq's position on the talks.

His Highness Prince Hasan reiterated to 'Aziz Jordan's backing for Iraq's stand on the peace talks and its efforts to reach true, permanent, peace with Iran in their interests and those of other regional states.

Present at the meeting were the prime minister, the ministers of court and foreign affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. [passage omitted] The Iraqi minister has since left Amman.

World Bank Discusses Telecommunications Projects

JN2109103588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA, J.T.)—A World Bank team Tuesday discussed with Jordanian officials the financing of Jordan's telecommunications projects from a World Bank loan of $36 million approved by the bank's executive director last June.

The team met with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khalid al-Haj Hasan, Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director Muhammad Shahid Isma'il and other officials to review projects that are to be carried out by the TCC in the course of its five-year plan which is partially financed through the World Bank loan.

The team which had conducted a feasibility study on the projects, submitted a general assessment at the meeting and discussed means of speeding up arrangements leading to the official signing of the loan agreement, according to the Jordan News Agency, PETRA.

The agency said that part of the loan will be used to cover the cost of consultancy services needed to help the TCC be transformed into a public shareholding company, with the shares being owned by the government as a first stage and gradually turned over to the public.

The main objective of the loan, according to TCC officials, is to assist in financing the corporation's five-year development which includes expanding network capacity, improving the quality of the services and increasing the TCC's geographical coverage in the Kingdom.

The plan also includes the formation and implementation of an action plan for sector restructuring and institutional development.

The terms of the loan include a seven-year repayment schedule with a four-year grace period at standard variable interest rates.

According to the officials, the Ministry of Planning will represent the Kingdom as guarantor for the loan agreement.

Last February, the TCC floated a tender for projects included in its five-year plan and al-Haj Hasan said that the projects will add 220,000 more lines to the Kingdom's telephone network at a cost of nearly JD 100 million.

The TCC director general, earlier this year, said that the Jordanian private sector will be invited to contribute to the implementation of these projects, which will be carried out in stages, and will cover 591 towns and villages.

The projects, according to Isma'il, entail installing automatic telephone exchanges and nearly 100 new buildings to house the electronic equipment and microwave stations.

Japan Extends Loans for Irrigation, Roads
JN2209114088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Minister of Planning Tahir Kan'an and Japanese Ambassador Makoto Watanabe Wednesday exchanged notes committing Japan to extend to Jordan loans for the north Ghors conversion project and for a road improvement project.

The total amount of the two loans is approximately $130 million under the current exchange rates.

Wednesday's agreement marks the beginning of the actual implementation of the $300 million concessional loans to be extended to Jordan from Japan.

Terms for these loans carry the annual interest rate of 2.9 percent, with the repayment period of 30 years including 10 years of grace period.

The North Ghors conversion project is to save water by introducing more efficient irrigation facilities to replace the existing surface-irrigation system, and also to reduce the operation and maintenance cost in an area of 8,000 hecatres that is to benefit from the project in the northern Jordan Valley.

The road improvement project is to improve and upgrade Jordan's primary trunk highways in the northern part of the country in order to cope with increasing traffic demands.

Prior to today's agreement, Japan had already extended to Jordan four loans for telecommunication projects and two loans for dam and irigation projects.

The aggregate total of the loans extended from Japan to Jordan amounts to approximately $470 million.

AL-DUSTUR Views Israel's 'Spy Satellite'
JN2109094888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Israel's Problems Are on Earth, Not in Space"]

[Text] The launching of an Israeli experimental satellite yesterday did not surprise anyone who followed up the Israeli research in the field of long-range missiles and who noted the large resources the Hebrew state has employed to develop its intelligence and espionage capability.

There were continuous reports in Western press and news media, particularly those of the United States, about this experimental satellite launched into space yesterday.

These media spoke in detail about Israel's scientific capabilities whose aims were no secret to anyone. In any case, and no matter how important it is, this satellite—put into orbit yesterday—will by no means remove any of the problems Israel is facing on the ground in confronting people who have been using the most primitive weapons against it for approximately 10 months.

Such an espionage satellite might improve Israel's reconnaissance capabilities against the Arab states and might increase its power of deterrence, but it can by no means help Israel achieve peace, impose its terms of capitulation on the Arabs, or force the Arabs to accept an expansionist, hostile Israel as an established fact on earth or in space.

There is no doubt that Israel's possession of such new spying capability will only open the Arab people's eyes to this new fact about the conflict with the Israeli enemy and urge them to mobilize all their material and technological resources to prevent Israel from being the sole player in the region's space.

Israel's spy satellite will help push the area toward a new technological race in the same manner as Israel's possession of the most modern weapons prompted the Arabs to possess such weapons.

As long as the conflict is long and continues from one generation to another, we are fully confident that this nation will regain its unity and ability to confront Israel on the ground and attain decisive superiority over it.

Despite its importance, the experimental satellite Israel launched yesterday will not remove any of the problems the Jewish state faces on the ground.

TIMES: Slogans Will Not Narrow Technology Gap
JN2109075088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "The Full Challenge:]

[Text] Israel's launch this week of an indigenous satellite on its own home-made rocket is symptomatic of the large gap in technology which exists between Israel and the Arab World.

Whether this satellite will have military applications during its brief lifespan, or future satellites would be used for intelligence gathering, makes little practical difference in the long run.

The fact is that the gap between us and them is very large, in both technological and other terms, and it will not be narrowed by simple slogans calling for the Arabs to match Israel's capabilities.

As in nuclear technology, in space technology Israel is totally oblivious to international norms and standards when it comes to what it sees as safeguarding its own security. It will disregard any calls for it to abide by international conventions, and it will develop its satellite and rocket technology to serve whatever ends it wishes.

We would do well, therefore, to spend less time passively moaning about Israel's intentions, and more time working hard to transform our societies into ones which can reclaim their ancient role as leaders in science and technology, as well as in culture, the arts, philosphy and ethics.

The reality is that our attempt to purchase off-the-shelf high technology will always keep us several steps behind Israel and we will always have to submit to the political humiliation of being denied products that may be seen as threatening to Israeli security.

The solution—like the problem—is not one of satellites or space stations or money. It is, rather, the promotion of productive, creative and self-confident societies that can tap the human potential of their citizenry. Whether the result is satellites or tomatoes makes little difference.

Let us in the Arab World, therefore, respond to the true meaning of the Israeli satellite, and appreciate the full implications of the Israeli challenge in its broadest sense.

Shams al-Din Opposes Move To Form Government

NC2209144188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Sources close to Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, have declared that he strongly opposes the regime's move to form a new government, whether it includes members of the present government or not.

They added that in light of what is being circulated and reiterated; that is, since the regime may embark on just such a wrong and serious move, his eminence strongly bans all Muslims from agreeing or participating in such a government, under penalty of shari'a law.

The sources added that Shaykh Shams al-Din reconfirms the decision announced yesterday to the effect that Dr Salim al-Huss' government should assume the reigns of power in case of a vacuum as a result of the failure to elect a new president.

Mufti, Shams al-Din Issue Warning to Al-Jumayyil

NC2209184488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Mufti Hasan Khalid and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, met at the mufti's residence in West Beirut at 1915 today. Druze spiritual leader Muhammad Abu Shaqrah was scheduled to join the meeting.

Afterward, Mufti Khalid and Shaykh Shams al-Din issued a statement in which they warned the president against taking any measure which would shake the foundation of the national charter. They emphasized the legitimacy of the present government under Dr Salim al-Huss.

They called strongly on the Lebanese in general and the Muslims in particular to abstain from participating in the intended government, and to regard this government as illegitimate and absolutely unacceptable, should the president not respond to their appeals.

They called on all Lebanese political leaders to fulfill their historic responsibility. They also announced that they will continue to meet in order to take the proper stand on new developments.

Al-Jumayyil Delivers Farewell Address

NC2209183088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1729 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Farewell message by President Amin al-Jumayyil at conclusion of his term of office; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] O Lebanese, I leave the Presidency today with worry and tribulation in my heart. This day should have been a day of celebration on which to rejoice at the election of a new president who would take over the reins and be sworn in, as I and my predecessors were sworn in, promising to respect the Lebanese nation's Constitution and its laws and to preserve the Lebanese homeland's independence and territorial integrity.

The constitutional trust should have been transferred by the free will of the deputies to a president who enjoys the people's confidence and consequently restores to these people their trust in the homeland, the republic, and its institutions.

It should have been transferred to a president who would shoulder the burdens of leadership within a collective quest to develop and reform these institutions so that they would be able to keep abreast of changes and cope with the challenges bequethed by the long war years.

Between the president and the people and between the president and the constitution there is a charter and a covenant. The charter is one of life which forges ahead surmounting hunger and deprivation, fear and panic, destruction and displacement. As for the covenant, it is that the presidency should remain greater than the president and less than the Constitution.

O Lebanese, the presidents change but the Presidency remains to safeguard the Constitution as a fortress of freedoms and rights and as a firm prop ensuring the continuation of the unity of the institutions, land, and people. This was my goal when I took the oath 6 years ago.

I am leaving office now, but the conspiracy has prevented surmounting the ordeals and wars which have torn our land and people. I depend with you on a Lebanese peace which will liberate us, at least from the folly of dissolution in regional and international wars on our land and sanctities. War triumphed and the warriors were stronger than peace.

However, I still have strong faith that the will to be liberated will continue to drive us without despair or weariness toward the constitutional duties of independence and sovereignty.

O Lebanese, my will to you is to cling to the state as you cling to liberty and rights, as you have no alternative to the state and its legitimate institutions. I hope that efforts will be reconsolidated and the energetic forces will be reunited to resume the dialogue as soon as possible and agree on a new president who will overcome the crisis and will not be its captive and the hostage of its management.

Is it too much for us to aspire to a president who will restore Lebanon to its former self in order to resume its historical, Arab, and humanitarian role?

O Lebanese, I bid you farewell and I leave the Constitution in the care of a government to which the responsibility of seeking a prompt election of a new president to guarantee the rectitude of legitimate institutions and democratic principles will be transferred.

I bid you farewell, but I will remain among you as a citizen who will not hesitate to shoulder his responsibilities with you. I believe that the work with the rank and file is the foundation on which Lebanon's future will be established. Long live Lebanon.

Partial List of Figures in Government Released

NC2209203588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Forty-five minutes separate us from the end of President Amin al-Jumayyil's term in office. Within this short time the president will announce the formation of a transitional government under the chairmanship of Deputy Pierre Hilu, whose task will be to preserve the Constitution and seek the prompt election of a new Lebanese president who will guarantee the rectitude of legitimacy and the principles of democracy.

Our correspondent in the Presidential Palace has given us the names of some of those who will form part of the government. They are Pierre Hilu, Makardish Buldukian, Joe Khadar, Samir Ja'ja', Dany Sham'un, Michel Sissin, Khalil Abu Hamad, Rashid al-Khuri, Munif Hamdan, Hamid Dakrub, and Khalil Nasr al-Din, in addition to the ministers in the current government. There are other names which we will announce as soon as we are provided them.

Nationalist Parties Reject Forming New Government

NC2209211188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] After a meeting this evening at the office of 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, the nationalist parties and forces announced their rejection of the formation of a new government.

They said that the statement issued by the parliamentary meeting in Bkirki on the holding of the election session in Mansur Palace instead of at Al-Najmah Square pretended to forget that the first session was held in Mansur Palace and that they did not attend it.

The nationalist parties and forces assailed the Al-Yarzah meeting between Army Commander Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja', considering it as communique number one of Israel's resolution. They urged the Lebanese nationalists—Christians and Muslims—to refuse to participate in the proclaimed government.

They said they will not cooperate with those who do. The criterion of patriotic affiliation, they noted, will be the stand toward this government, which aims to perpetuate the pro-Zionist political Maronitism and will lead to partition.

They added: Let those who claim to be concerned with the preservation of Christianity bear the responsibility for burying the political Maronite leadership and for abolishing coexistence on Lebanese soil.

'Military Government' Under Michel 'Awn Formed

NC2209210388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2052 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Ten minutes before the expiration of the constitutional deadline, a military government [has been formed] under the chairmanship of Army Commander General Michel 'Awn. It includes the members of the Military Council and Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah, Brigadier General Edgar Ma'luf, Colonel Lutfi Jabir, Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham, and Major General Hisham Kuraytim. We are waiting for the official announcement from B'abda Palace.

Al-Jumayyil Names 'Awn to Head Goverment

NC2209221588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2108 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Statement read by Judge George Juraysati, director general of presidential protocol, from B'abda Palace—live or recorded]

[Text] Decree 5387 has been issued. In accordance with the Constitution, particularly Article 53, and in accordance with Decree 3936 of 1 June 1987 appointing former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss as acting prime minister for the resigned government to manage affairs until a new government was formed, the president of the Republic decrees the following:

Article 1. General Michel 'Awn has been appointed chairman of the Council of Ministers. He will keep his military rank in the Army.

Article 2. This decree will be published and made known where there is a need for that, and will go into effect immediately after its issuance. Date, 22 September 1988.

Decree 5388 has been issued by the president of the Republic. In accordance with the Constitution, particularly Article 53, and in accordance with Decree 5387 of 22 September 1988, including the appointment of Gen

Michel 'Awn as chairman of the Council of Ministers, and at the proposal of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, the president decrees the following:

Article 1. Gen Michel 'Awn, chairman of the Council of MInisters, has been appointed as minister of national defense and information;

Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah	deputy prime minister and minister of posts, communications, housing, cooperatives, economy, and trade;
Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham	minister of public works and transport, tourism, and labor;
Brigadier General Edgar Ma'luf	minister of finance, health, social affairs, industry, and oil;
Brigadier General Nabil Quraytim	minister of foreign affairs,national education, fine arts, and interior;
and Colonel Lutfi Jabir,	minister of water and electricity resources, agriculture, and justice.

Article 2. Ministers Brig Gen Edgar Ma'luf, Col 'Isam Abu Jamrah, and Col Lutfi Jabir will keep their military ranks in the Army.

Article 3. This decree will be published and made known where necessary and will go into effect immediately after its issuance.

Issued on 22 September 1988.

General 'Awn To Ensure 'Proper Transfer of Power'
NC2209225388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] A short time ago the Army commander emerged [from B'abda Palace]. Here is a recording of his statement [as heard]. Joseph Khuri from the news section will give us the text of the statement made by General Michel 'Awn, army commander and head of the military government.

[Begin Khuri recording] In fact, it is not the text but the content of what Gen 'Awn said. As you mentioned, he left a short time ago. He commented on the military institution, saying that this institution's goal is to defend the land and the people.

He disclosed that he has a security program aimed at ensuring sound presidential elections. He said that the objective of his military government is not to introduce martial law, but rather to ensure a proper transfer of power. [end recording]

Colonel Jabir Refuses To Join 'Awn Government
NC2209222788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] It was reported a short time ago that Colonel Lutfi Jabir, whose name appeared in the make-up of the military government, has refused to join this government.

Two More Officers Refuse To Join Government
NC2209223988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Immediately after the new government was formed, Brigadier General Quraytim, Major General Abu Dargham, and Colonel Jabir announced that they will not join it.

Birri, Ja'ja', Sham'un, Hilu Comment on Formation
NC2209225988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Amal leader Nabih Birri has said that he regards the formation of the government as a coup d'etat.

Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has described the new government as a government of independence, adding: We must be pleased at the formation of this military government because in this situation we are in great need of a strong government which is able to hold steadfast and which is capable of confrontation in order to hold the presidential election.

He added that General 'Awn will act at the beginning as a strong dam vis-a-vis pressures. He stated that after that the government will hold intensive contacts, and said further: We will all attempt to contribute to these consultations in order to hold the elections.

National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un said that the decision to appoint Gen 'Awn was an excellent one and serves the good of the whole country. He urged everyone to cooperate with Gen 'Awn away from sectarian concepts and connotations.

Deputy Pierre Hilu said: I wanted to form a cabinet in which representatives of all the sects would participate. However, difficulties appeared which prevented this. He said that he believes that the problem is a political one and wished success for Gen 'Awn's government.

Al-Husayni Says New Government 'Dangerous Step'
NC2209232888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2315 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has said that he considers the new government illegitimate. He described its formation as a dangerous step that contravenes constitutional norms and violates national charters.

Al-Huss, Junblat React to Government Formation

NC2209233988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2315 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has said that the new government is stillborn. Sources close to Al-Huss have reported that consultations were carried out yesterday [22 September] between him and the Presidential Palace on the formation of an expanded government.

He rejected this and proposed reviving the current government by adding four ministers: Dany Sham'un, 'Umar Karami, George Sa'adah, and Nazih al-Bizri. At 2300 Al-Huss was informed that his proposal had been rejected.

Meanwhile, PSP circles have cited former Minister Walid Junblatt as saying that the formation of the new government is a misshapen coup d'etat.

Abu Dargham, Jabir Offer Reasons for Refusal

NC2309000188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2315 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Following the formation of the government, Brigadier General Quraytim, Major General Abu Dargham, and Colonel Jabir announced that they would not participate in it.

Maj Gen Abu Dargham refused to join and said: This time it is not appropriate. He said he hopes a national unity government will be formed.

Col Lutfi Jabir said: I was not consulted; I was taken by surprise and I do not agree to participate in this government.

Chamber Speaker Says Government 'Legitimate'

NC2309112588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni held a news conference today. He said that the formation of a government yesterday is serious and violates norms, constitutional provisions, and national charters. The speaker noted that this government is neither one of militarists nor a military government [sentence as heard].

He affirmed that the government of Prime Minister al-Huss is the legitimate government, which can substitute for the president.

In his news conference, the Chamber speaker added: In view of General 'Awn's commitment to the legitimacy of the system, I ask him to continue in his post as the Army commander and to obey the will of the legitimate government, which is dutybound to arrange its status to ensure the continuity of legitimacy and the unity of the homeland, and to endeavor to create a suitable atmosphere for holding the elections.

Official Announces 23 Sep Session Postponed

NC2309070988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0707 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Statement issued by Chamber Secretary General Ihsan Abu Khalil in Beirut—live]

[Text] As a result of the contacts which Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has held with a number of fellow deputies, the speaker has announced the postponement of today's session to a date which will be set in due time.

'Prime Minister' 'Awn Arrives at B'abda Palace

NC2309093288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has begun to carry out his duties. He arrived at B'abda Palace at 1100 today.

Abu Jamrah Takes Over Ministry of Economy, Trade

NC2309104688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Minister Victor Qasir handed over responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and Trade to Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah this morning. Qasir will hand over responsibility of the Ministry of Housing and Cooperatives to Abu Jamrah tomorrow.

Qasir also will hand over responsibility of the Ministry of Industry and Oil to Brigadier General Edgar Ma'luf tomorrow.

Gen 'Awn Explains Government Role to Reporters

NC2309134288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today emphasized to reporters that the role of the government is to watch over the sound continuation of legitimacy and ensure the holding of the presidential election under appropriate conditions.

He said: We are trying to facilitate all the presidential elections [as heard]. There are conditions we demand: freedom of nomination and freedom of voting.

Answering a question on the reservations expressed by three ministers regarding the assumption of their portfolios, 'Awn said: They live under special conditions. They do not enjoy full freedom ind making their decisions.

The new government under General Michel 'Awn began its duties at the B'abda Palace today. General 'Awn met with Ministers Abu Jamrah and Ma'luf this afternoon. He also received Defense Committee Member Deputy Albert Mansur. He will meet with the ambassadors of the five great powers and Diplomatic Corps Dean and Papal Envoy Luciano Angeloni tomorrow.

Junblatt on 'Awn Government, Future Steps

NC2309132188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt, accompanied by Marwan Hamadah and Akram Shuhayyib, met separately with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid, and Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today. The meeting [as heard] was attended by Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Dr Ilyas Saba, marwan Hamadah, and Akram Shuhayyib.

Following his meeting with Husayn al-Husayni, Junblatt said: Today's meeting falls within the framework of consultations amoang key figures to reject the military rule. What took place yesterday was a military coup, which is very grave development. We stress the legitimacy of Al-Huss government.

Following his meeting with the mufti of the Republic, Junblatt said: We came to this noble house to visit his eminence the mufti. We know him for his great national and Islamic stands. We recall that he led the Muslims in prayers in the municipal stadium and rejected the tyranny of the Army and the Phalangist Party.

Today we trust him to reject the military rule which was imposed on us by this pro-Israeli, small, isolationist group. We know that he will continue to stand alongside the patriots and the Muslims and will support the legitimacy of the current government for the sake of Lebanon's salvation.

Regarding his stand on the formation of the 'Awn government, Junblatt said: There has been a military coup. There is a difference between a government and a coup.

Regarding future steps, he said: We must and will be patient, and we will see what transpires.

While at the house of the acting prime minister, Junblatt said: We consider Dr al-Huss' government to be the legitimate and democratic one. On this basis, we will not allow Lebanon to be drawn into labyrinths. We are committed to legitimacy and we hope that the Chamber of Deputies will meet as soon as possible to elect a candidate of conciliation, on which we have agreed with the brothers in Syria, and also with the Americans.

Junblatt said the first step in confronting the current phase will take place tomorrow when the cabinet will meet in government house in Al-Sana'i'. The second step will be to prepare for an all-embracing natgionalist conference that will try to save Lebanon from this grave crisis, the whirlpool of partition.

The two steps are preparatory to holding democratic elections. he pointed out that he will propose that General Michel 'Awn be dismissed from his post and referred to the Disciplinary Council because he has stolen authority from us. We are the legitimate authority and we will inform all regional and international circles about this.

Former Speaker Al-As'ad Returns to East Beirut

NC2309120988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Former Speaker Kamil al-As'ad returned to his residence in East Beirut this afternoon.

Christians Reject Al-Najmah Square Venue

NC2309120688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Christian deputies, who met in Bkirki today, insisted on their previous stands, above all their rejection of Al-Najmah Square as the venue for the parliamentary session.

Al-Huss Briefs Sfayr on Government Formation

NC2309120388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has contacted Patriarch Sfayr prior to the meeting of the Christian deputies in Bkirki, in order to brief him on his stand on the government formation.

Dr al-Huss briefed his beatitude the patriarch on the details of the contacts that the presidential palace had had with him in a bid to amend his government, and on his response to this proposal.

Al-Huss then told Patriarch Sfayr that he was surprised by the cessation of these contacts, which continued until shortly before the proclamation of the military government.

He also told Sfayr that the second government which President al-Jumayyil formed under the chairmanship of the Army commander is illegitimate because its formation violates the basis on which the National Charter, the inalienable constitutional norms, and clear-cut constitutional provisions, have been founded. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Huss went on to tell Patriarch Sfayr that his government continues to exist and is legitimate, and there is no authority vacuum. This government enjoys full powers to exercise executive authority and ensure the continuation of the state.

Al-Huss added: Article 62 of the Constitution clearly stipulates that in the event of a presidential vacuum, for any reason, the procedural authority shall be handled by the ministerial council.

Amal Announces Death of Dawud Dawud, Others Issues Statement

NC2209130888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued the following statement:

The Amal Movement announces to all Lebanese, Arabs, and Muslims, as well as to the martyrs of the resistance,

South, Lebanon, and free honest people, the martyrdom of Brothers Dawud Sulayman Dawud, Al-Hajj Mahmud Faqih, and Al-Hajj Hasan Sbaytah.

These brothers were assassinated in an armed ambush by the hand of treachery and treason and of agents of Israel while they were heading to the South on the Al-Awza'i-Khaldah Road.

The Amal Movement, which blesses our people with the martyrdom of the brother strugglers, promises the spilled pure blood needed to maintain a free and dignified south and to liberate it from the filth of the occupation, as well as to safeguard Lebanon's Arabism dignity, and prestige.

Hizballah Members Arrested

NC2209164888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Mahmud Faqih, Amal's organizational official; Dawud Dawud, chairman of the movement's Executive Committee; Hasan Sbaytah, head of Amal's Services Bureau; and Hajj 'Ali Sulayman, another Amal official, were killed in an armed ambush in Al-Mudawwarah in Al- Awza'i today. [passage omitted]

The incident caused immediate tension in southern areas, stretching from Al-Ghaziyah as far as Tyre and also including Al-Nabatiyah. Amal gunmen in these areas are carrying out raids and arresting Hizballah members who, according to some reports, are then being killed.

A similar state of tension prevails in Corniche Al-Mazra'ah [in West Beirut]. Amal gunmen are currently deploying in force in two directions in the area, from Al-Barbir to 'Abd al-Nasir Mosque and in Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq.

According to reports, Amal and Syrian intelligence personnel are arresting Hizballah members and accusing them of involvement in the killing of the Amal cadres. The reports add that the Amal Movement has accused Mustafa al-Dirani, one of its former officials who joined Hizballah and who has close links with the Iranian Embassy, of involvement in the assassination.

Dawud Deputy Arrested as Suspect

NC2209163288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] It has been learned that the Syrian intelligence service has arrested 'Atif 'Awn, the deputy of Dawud Dawud. Syrian intelligence officials have started to interrogate him at the Beau Rivage Hotel on the suspicion that he was involved in organizing the ambush in which four Amal officials were killed this afternoon.

New Group Claims Assassination

NC2209205188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2020 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] In a telephone call made to an international news agency in Nicosia, Cyprus, an anonymous person speaking on behalf of the Organization for Combating the Agents of Zionism [Munazzamat Mukafahat 'Umala' al-Sihyuniyah] has claimed responsibility for assassinating the agent Dawud Dawud, as he put it, and his three comrades. We point out that this organization was unknown until now.

Birri Declares 'General Mourning'

NC2309055588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The funeral of resistance martyrs Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Sbaytah, who were assassinated yesterday by the criminal hands, agents of Israel, while on their way to the South, will take place today. The three martyrs were assassinated in an ambush laid by 10 gunmen on the Al-Awza'i Road.

The gunmen fired three rockets and opened intensive bursts of machinegun fire at the motorcade, riddling the Amal officials with dozens of bullets. The gunmen managed to escape in two BMW cars toward Beirut. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Minister Nabih Birri, while announcing the death of the three martyrs, said: I urge my kinfolk to declare a general mourning today and all the prayers leaders in the mosques to read Koranic verses throughout the day today over the soul of the sons of Imam al-Sadr. [passage omitted]

Amal, Palestinians Engage in 'Violent Clashes'

NC2209190588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1850 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of various types of machineguns and rocket shells are raging between Amal Movement members and Palestinians along the combat lines southeast of Sidon.

The clashes are centered around Palestinian positions in Sirub, Jabal al-Halib, Maria, Darb al-Sim and the 'Ayn al-Hulwah hills on one side, and the Amal Movement's positions in Maghdushah, Maria, Al-Shawakir, and Safa on the other. Sniper fire is reaching as far as Sayniq, south of Sidon. Therefore, the Sidon-Tyre road is unsafe.

Iranian Embassy Denounces Amal Assassinations

NC2209195988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt visited Nabih Birri this evening and offered condolences on the martyrdom of the three Amal leaders. Husayn al-Husayni, Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, Major General 'Ali Hammud, and a number of other political leaders and figures visited Birri for the same purpose.

At the same time, Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchiyan offered condolences to Birri. The Iranian Embassy issued a statement in which it denounced the incident and said it regards it as a blow to the Muslims in Lebanon. However, this blow will not deter them from their persistent demands for their legitimate rights to attain justice and equality.

The embassy urged all Muslims to prepare themselves to confront all the conspiracies aimed at them.

Amal Outlines Views on Developments

NC2109195888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] In a statement issued by its Political Bureau and Executive Committee, the Amal Movement has affirmed its dedication to Lebanon's unity, liberation, and Arabism and its insistence on a concrete reform of the system to ensure full justice and equality and an end to political sectarianism.

The statement notes that the statements being made in East Beirut are designed to strengthen the positions of some forces at the expense of other forces in a struggle that does not serve Lebanon.

The Amal Movement held those who are playing with fire as responsible for the loss of the homeland and its institutions, and drew the attention of our kinsmen in the eastern area to the fact that the Israeli plot is not designed to serve the Christians but to cause a conflict between them and their fellow brother citizens and to serve the Israeli plan, which can only be advanced at the expense of all Lebanese from all sects.

The Amal Movement's Political Bureau and Executive Committee held an extraordinary meeting under Minister Nabih Birri this evening, at which they decided to keep their meetings open to keep up with and react to developments.

AL-SHIRA' on 'Confusion' Within Hizballah

NC2309092588 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 19 Sep 88 p 9

[Text] Terry Waite will be released shortly, making him the second foreign hostage in Lebanon to be freed as a result of a reconciliation between Britain and Iran. This reconciliation began with London's denunciation of Iraq for using chemical weapons against the Kurds in northern Iraq and Iran's direct takeover of the affairs of the hostages in Lebanon.

Within this context, the release of German hostage Rudolf Cordes triggered anger and confusion within the ranks of Hizballah in Lebanon because it was not consulted over that move.

More importantly, Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani announced the imminent release of Cordes at a time when Hizballah was holding continuous meetings to discuss ways to handle the hostage issue after Iran had taken conrol of the hostages and begun an open and sometimes public dialogue with the United States and Britain on their fate.

The confusion within the ranks of Hizballah appeared after Iran decided to reduce Hizballah's monthly budget, which used to exceed $11 million a month prior to Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 on the Gulf war, to approximately $1 million.

With the exclusion of Revolutionary Guards Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust from the new Iranian Government of Mir Hoseyn Musavi, one of the most diehard wings of the Iranian [meaning hizballah] party in Lebanon has lost a main benefector and supporter within the Iranian regime.

In light of the new alliances forged in the Lebanese and Arab arenas in the wake of the Gulf war, the imminent convening of the Palestine National Council, the possibility of the declaration of a provisional Palestinian government, and the adverse impact of such events on Lebanon, Hizballah has been given a new option to deal positively with Syria as a natural, Arab, and national alternative to Iran.

In the meantime, and at the urging of one of its most important pillars, Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a major debate is taking place within Hizballah on Lebanizing [labnanat] the party.

Fadlallah is pressing the party to move in this direction so that Hizballah may establish a foothold in the Shi'ite political arena as a first step, and then in the Lebanese arena. The visits which several Hizballah officials are paying to some political leaders fall within this framework.

Israeli Planes Conduct 'Mock Raids' Over Camps

NC2209191188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1905 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Six Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over the areas east of Sidon and the Palestinian camps this evening, drawing antiaircraft fire. Six enemy aircraft had flown over the capital of the south this afternoon.

Damascus Reports on Lebanon's Military Government

JN2309060688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 sep 88

[Text] Beirut—The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies is scheduled to meet today to elect a new president for Lebanon.

Husayn Abu Khalil, secretary general of the Chamber of Deputies, yesterday announced the adjournment of the presidential elections session until 1100 today at the chamber's original premises at the Al-Najmah Square.

He said the adjournment was called so that presidential elections could be held on the constitutional date, Lebanon could be saved from its ordeal and be given an opportunity to succeed, and so that all deputies can achieve national reconciliation through a qualitative step where all will rise to serve the country's higher interests.

Lebanese nationalist parties and forces are scheduled to meet this morning to study the latest developments in Lebanon. The meeting was to be held yesterday but was adjourned until today.

Meanwhile, it was announced in Beirut last night that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil formed a new government of six officers headed by General Michel 'Awn, the Army commander. Ministerial portfolios were designated among the heads and members of the new government as follows:

Gen Michel 'Awn, prime minister, minister of national defense and information; Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah, deputy prime minister, minister of post and telecommunications, minister of housing and cooperatives, and minister of economy and trade; Major General Mahmud Tay Abu Dargham, minister of public works, transport, tourism, and labor; Brigadier General Edgar Ma'luf, minister of finance, health, social affairs, industry, and oil; Brig Gen Nabil Quraytim, minister of foreign affairs, national education, fine arts, and interior; Col Lutfi Jabir, minister of hydroelectric resources, agriculture, and justice.

The decree on forming the government states that Gen Michel 'Awn, Brig Gen Edgar Ma'luf, Col 'Isam Abu Jamrah, and Col Lutfi Jabir will retain their military ranks in the Army.

Voice of Lebanon radio reported last night that upon the formation of the new Lebanese government headed by Gen Michel 'Awn, Brig Gen Nabil Quraytim, Maj Gen Mahmud Abu Dargham, and Col Lutfi Jabir announced that they will not take part in the government.

The Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio also reported last night that Amal leader Nabih Birri said the formation of the new Lebanese government last night is a military coup.

AL-BA'TH Cited on Role in Lebanon

JN1909101988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria's Role in Lebanon and the Roles of Others," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Lebanese people are looking forward to 22 September, the new date for electing a president of the Republic, with hope mixed with expectation, and with optimism engulfed with caution.

This is because the obstruction of the first date of 18 August has closed the gates of hope and immersed Lebanon and its people in darkness which heralds grave consequences.

The obstruction confirmed many facts—perhaps led by minority actions which deal with the homeland and its fate as a commodity for wagering and auctions—beginning with Israel and Washington and ending with the regime of agentry in Baghdad.

This regime infiltrated the auction through weapons, funds, and experts via Juniyah and its hotels, which hosted this regime's envoys side by side with the Zionist envoys.

Now, with the approach of the new date for the constitutional task, it has been revealed that the destiny of the homeland is too significant to be controlled by a minority representing nobody but itself and too serious to be decided by foreign forces, regardless of their power.

AL-BA'TH adds: Here lies the issue around which various questions and interpretations revolve. Interpretations tried to link Syria's role in Lebanon and the roles of many regional and international forces. However, they forgot, or tend to forget, that Syria's role in Lebanon cannot be compared with any other roles.

This is based on constants which reject any attempt to change them. The brotherly relations and links between the two sisterly countries date back to an old joint history accompanied with joint geographical, social, and security integration unique in both past and present times.

These brotherly links have prompted leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad to make his historic decision and human and pan-Arab initiative to save Lebanon and ward off any danger—the danger of Zionist ambitions which threaten both Lebanon and Syria, and, consequently, the Arab nation's existence.

This danger further enhances the ties of brotherhood and the duty of a person toward his brother. Leader Al-Asad's historic decision gives these ties the ability to confront and endure. Our militant masses and their nationalist forces everywhere have realized this equation.

They supported Syria, blessed its sacrifices, and stressed that saving Lebanon from the claws of Zionism and its agents is the primary objective. However, some, deliberately or not, ignore Syria's salvational role. This matter does not concern us at all.

What we seek is the recovery of a sisterly country earnestly looking forward to getting rid of its pains.

Hence, we reaffirm that Syria, which has been honest to all the issues of our national and pan-Arab issues, including Lebanon, has since the outset sought to repulse the Zionist invasion, inflicting on it the gravest loss by the toppling of the agreement of humiliation and treason.

Syria has sought accord and reform, aspiring for the unity of land and people, the achievement of justice for all Lebanese, and a homeland free of the filth of the Zionist occupation. This homeland should have a national [qawmi] role in confronting the constant danger and a shining and prosperous future under peace, stability, and security.

These are noble tasks awaiting the next president, the most competent president, who will be elected by the representatives of the people, not regional and international forces.

Commentary Reacts to Shultz Mideast Statement

JN1909195488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by Fayiz Qandil]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz talked a few days ago about the future of the West Bank and Gaza—of course from the U.S.-Israeli perspective. He was clear, indeed, as decisive as a sword edge. So much so that it is possible to say that he embarrassed, or even shut up all promoters and Americanized people who promised a U.S. solution to the Middle East problem and the Palestine question.

Many Arab and non-Arab parties have, over recent weeks, been making unequivocal, though not completely definite, statements about a U.S. solution, or about something or some plan being prepared in the United States, with its results to appear very soon. All those statements suggested that this U.S. something or plan is of interest to the Palestinian Arab people.

It was clear that the aim of such talk was to deceive the heroic resistance in the uprising Palestinian homeland so that it would relax, assured by this U.S. solution. It is certain that nobody was misled by this nonsense, unless he wanted to be misled, or, more precisely, unless he wanted a justification for defeatism and retreat.

Nevertheless, George Shultz came to draw the water out of the faces of these parties. Secretary Shultz announced that the United States exercised the right to self-determination on behalf of the Palestinian people. That is, the United States decided to deprive the Palestinian people of the right to self-determination.

Despite the rhetoric about relations of the people on the West Bank and Gaza with this party or that, the future of the West Bank and Gaza as viewed by the United States is that they constitute an Israeli colony. Israel will reduce the cost of oppression and occupation there as local authorities step in for Israel. This is what Israel calls self-rule.

George Shultz' insistence on Resolution No 242 and 338 without addition or amendment on the Palestinian question—that is, his insistence that the question is one of refugees—confirms our argument even if Shultz did not use the autonomy expression.

Shultz then said that the future of the West Bank and Gaza as an Israeli colony, and before being officially and openly annexed to Israel, does not prevent Israel from annexing some parts of the West Bank and Gaza immediately to the Zionist entity.

That is, at least half of the West Bank, if we take into consideration what Israel calls greater Jerusalem. Of course, Shultz did not say this literally, but implied it when he insisted that the Israeli withdrawal, if it takes place, will not be a withdrawal from all the territories, but from occupied territories. Shultz once again deleted the famous definite article from Resolution No 242.

Anyway, the U.S. secretary of state did not come up with anything new. He reiterated what President Reagan had announced in 1982 when he presented his unsuccessful plan and introduced it by saying that the right to self-determination imagined by the Palestinians for themselves is not the self-determination that the United States is imagining for the Palestinians.

Now what is the value of Shultz' statement? It has only one positive value: George Shultz embarrassed all those who are trying to deceive the Palestinian Arab people and the revolution of the occupied homeland in order to make it relax. This is the value of Shultz' statement.

The occupied homeland, on the other hand, did not unleash its uprising before it destroyed all similar tricks planned for the Palestinian Arab people since the revolution of 1936. Even the children of Palestine know how the great Palestinian revolution of 1936 was aborted by a similar trick, indeed a more beautiful and attractive trick than the current tricks of American and the Americanized.

Therefore, a people with abundant heroism and sacrifice and with such formidable experience in struggle can immediately reveal and remove these tricks and disdain them and their makers. This people can procede to self-determination in the Palestinian way, not the American way.

Self-determination for the Palestinians means to clear the Palestinian territories from Israeli occupation and from all the conspiracies of the U.S.-Israeli alliance against this Palestinian Arab destiny.

Radio on 'Military Purposes' of Israeli Satellite

JN2109142088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Sep 88

['Isam Dari "report" carried within the "On the Events" program]

[Text] Gentlemen: On 19 September, the Zionist entity placed a spy satellite in orbit around the earth in a new and dangerous step that has caused concern in the international community and increased the complexity of the situation in the region.

It also affirmed Israel's aggressive aims, schemes, and strategies of expansionism and hegemony. The Israeli satellite, as claimed by international reports, is capable of providing intelligence information on the Arab world from Morocco to the Gulf.

Despite the fact that the Reagan Administration tried to evade the Israeli step and suggest that this satellite was fired for peaceful uses, the statements of high-ranking Zionist officials affirm that the object of this satellite is purely military.

This is because the enemy leaders, headed by Shamir, Peres, Tamir, and others, indicated in their speeches on the satellite, the deterring force at the disposal of the Zionist entity to confront the Arabs.

Tel Aviv and Washington leaders are trying to suggest that the Israeli satellite and the Israeli-made rocket were placed into orbit to show off the development of Israeli technology and the might of the Zionist entity. These attempts cannot hide the true nature of the firm cooperation between the two strategic allies—the United States and the Zionist entity—which resulted in this satellite.

What the Israeli military production has achieved would not have happened had it not been for the memos of strategic understanding between the Zionist entity and the United States, which has opened the door wide to establish joint military production between the two strategic allies. It also opened the doors wide of the U.S. weapons storehouses for the Zionists to take as much as they want without charge.

The United States has also admitted the Zionist entity into the space militarization club through Reagan's program known as Star Wars.

A number of enemy military leaders have admitted the military purposes of the Israeli satellite. They indicated that one of these purposes is to improve Israeli ability to receive an early warning in case of war.

This dangerous development in the Middle East has moved the international community anew. The community has expressed its great concern over the Israeli step.

The Soviet Union expressed concern over Israel's firing of the satellite. It affirmed that this will complicate the Middle East issue even further—especially if we take into consideration Israeli nuclear hopes and keeping the Middle East issue unsolved.

Firing an Israeli satellite affirms Israel's expansionist intentions and the continuation of its military schemes to keep up its aggression against the Arab nation. This requires a unified and intensive Arab effort to confront the Zionist danger which has moved from earth to space.

This dangerous development also places the international community face to face with its historic responsibilities of confronting the aggressive Zionist ambitions, before the reins controlling the aggressive drive of the Zionist enemy leaders slip away.

Paper Assesses Al-Jumayyil Visit, Elections

JN2209073088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Historic Opportunity To Move Out of the Tunnel", the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Through its leader Al-Asad, Syria once again reiterates its fraternal stand on the Lebanese problem. During his talks with [Lebanese] President al-Jumayyil yesterday on the eve of the presidential elections, leader Al-Asad asserted that Syria is beside all the Lebanese and extends the hand of assistance and fraternity to them.

Syria is always ready to work with the Lebanese in order to safeguard Lebanon, protect its unity and independence, and realize its security and stability. The two presidents also agreed on the importance of the presidential elections process and on exerting all possible efforts to facilitate election procedures, especially since Lebanon's destiny depends on these elections. They are the premise for a national solution to restore Lebanon's security and allow Lebanese citizens to lead a normal life.

They are also an important opportunity for the Lebanese to exert collective efforts in order to rebuild Lebanon and achieve progress and prosperity.

Based on all these considerations, Syria extends, just as it did in the past, the hand of assistance and fraternity to all the Lebanese. Moreover, it will never relinquish its pan-Arab role in helping the Lebanese brethren end their painful ordeal.

Syria also urges all those faithful to the unity of the Lebanese land and people to render the election process a success because this will be the premise to realize national accord. In all phases of the Lebanese problem, Syria was beside the Lebanese.

It also opens its doors and extends its hand to everyone who wants to contribute to removing the abnormal Lebanese situation and difficulties and who works to restore normal life in Lebanon according to the constant national bases.

Today, the Lebanese brethren are facing their fateful role to hold the presidential elections. They should recall that there is no alternative to coexistence and understanding. There is also no alternative to adherence to the genuine national bases.

These bases constitute firm ground to follow the path of salvation, realize a national solution, and proceed toward a republic where there will be equal opportunities and national coexistence among all people.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Hasan Sharq Returns From USSR

LD2209171588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Republic of Afghanistan Prime Minister Dr Mohammad Hasan Sharq returned to Kabul this afternoon from the USSR where he had gone on 18 September at the head of a high-ranking government delegation at the USSR government's invitation.

He was welcomed at Kabul Airport by People's Assembly Vice President Dr 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi; People's Assembly Chairman Dr Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi; the president of the Supreme Court; Deputy Prime Minister Sarwar Mangal; members of the government; the mayor of Kabul; officials of a number of social organizations; high-ranking government officials; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Sharq's Visit to USSR

For Moscow- and Afghan-source reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq to the Soviet Union, including his meeting with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and a Kremlin dinner hosted by Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 19 September Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Pakistani Moves

LD2209165288 Moscow TASS in English 1451 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul September 22 TASS—Pakistan deliberately obstructs the normal activity of the U.N. monitors, said an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman. The Islamabad authorities try to bar them from areas where weapons depots and centers for training Afghan rebels are located, motivating their position by "lack of security due to tribal clashes".

In other cases the Pakistani authorities delay the trips by members of the U.N. Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) for two-three weeks and in this time weapons are moved out of depots and military training centers are converted to madrassas [religious schools].

One more ploy used by Islamabad to deceive the UNGOMAP and the world public opinion is the training of so-called representatives of refugees who say only what they are dictated by the authorities.

The fact that Islamabad did not give its consent to forming special international commissions to monitor the implementation of the Geneva agreements demonstrates the insincerity of Pakistan which pays lip service to adherence to these agreements.

This is understandable—Pakistan derives both political and material benefits from the stay of refugees in its territory. This is why speculation on "mining roads in areas bordering Pakistan" are set afloat among Afghans.

Gangs of Afghan opposition and Pakistani irregular border units obstruct by force their return. Frequently the matter amounts to killings.

Meanwhile, there are all reasons to claim that the majority of Afghan refugees wish to return to the homeland, the Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

Reports came from Qandahar Province that some extremist groups have engaged lately in the vigorous quest for wreckage of Afghan Air Force planes shot down over Pakistani territory by American and British missiles, BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reported.

This is done on the order of the Pakistani authorities which want to submit this wreckage to U.N. monitors as proof of Afghan aviation raids at Pakistani territory.

Specifically, this instruction was given to Muhammad Hashim, commander of an "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" formation in Punjab District. The ringleaders of the anti-government groups were offered lavish rewards for the fulfillment of this assignment.

BAKHTAR notes that the Pakistani authorities employ such unscrupulous methods to denigrate Afghanistan in the eyes of the world public and justify their own numerous violations of the Geneva agreements and direct interference in the affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The latter is confirmed, in part, by reports from Laghman Province and Khowst District where new caravans of weapons and ammunition for rebels arrived there the other day.

Envoy to Delhi Calls for Pressure on U.S.

BK2309105088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 23 (AFP)—Afghanistan's Ambassador to India 'Abdul Samad Friday called for international pressure on the United States, which he accused of not supporting the United Nations-brokered Soviet troop withdrawal pact.

"We make an appeal to the world public opinion to pressurise the U.S. to support the accord," the ambassador said at a press conference here, adding that Washington's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan had damaged its own international reputation.

Mr. Samad said it appeared Washington had threatened Islamabad with severe military aid cuts if Pakistan stopped aiding the mujahidin guerrillas who oppose the Moscow-backed government of President Najibullah.

The ambassador also accused Pakistan of preparing a major attack on neighbouring Afganistan and of increasing U.S.-supplied arms to Afghan rebels, and he warned of "bad consequences" if intensified military raids continued.

He said Pakistan had violated the accord signed in Geneva in April by stepping up aid to the mujahidin and launching air and ground attacks on civilian and military targets in Afghanistan.

"In case one party violates the accord then the other has no obligation to implement it," Mr. Samad told reporters. He warned without elaborating that such support by Islamabad to the rebels will have "bad consequences".

Islamabad and Kabul signed on April 8 in Geneva an agreement guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union pact to end the eight-year-long war which included the withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet troops sent into the country.

Listing Kabul's charges of reported Pakistani interference in Afghanistan and its military forays inside the country, the ambassador also said Islamabad was planning a major attack on its neighbour, but did not say when.

Answering reporters' questions he said the proposal of United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez for an interim government in Afghanistan did not guarantee peace as the "extremists" could easily bring it down.

Without the participation of the ruling Soviet-backed People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), installation of an interim government would be difficult, the ambassador said, but he did not say whether Kabul had rejected Mr. Cordovez's proposals outright.

Official Spokesman on Violations by Pakistan

BK2209034688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Afghanistan says that military training camps and other anti-Afghan centers continue to be active in Pakistan even after the signing of the Geneva accord.

An official spokesman told our correspondent, I.G. Behl, in Kabul that Pakistani paramilitary forces participate in armed attacks on border areas which include residential areas. He said the United States, too, is not abiding by the accord.

85th Memo on Pakistani Violations Submitted

LD2309105888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's office for coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that on the evening of 22 September the 85th memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan on seven blatant, substantive violations by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva Accords was handed over to UNGOMAP in Kabul.

The memorandum provides accurate information to UNGOMAP about the place, date, and circumstances of the violation. The mission has been asked to assess the violation mentioned in the memorandum and to bring the results to the attention of the Republic of Afghanistan and to the envoy of the UN Secretary General.

Internecine Clashes Between Rebels Noted

LD2109170788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] In the internecine clashes which have taken place over the past 10 days in Badghis Province, Faryab Province, Gozareh District of Herat, and the Nejrab District of Kapisa, 19 armed extremists were killed and 30 others were seriously wounded.

Clashes took place between Harakat and Jamiyat bands on the distribution of people's looted goods. The clashes are still going on in some places. As many as eight people were killed in Nejrab, nine people were killed in Badghis Province, and two people were killed in Gozareh District. Also, 30 people were wounded in Faryab and 3 people were wounded in Nejrab.

Kabul Reportage on Clashes With 'Extremists'

Arms Cache Found in Lalandar

LD2209133688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sept 21., BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the country discovered a large amount of arms and munitions on Monday in Lalandar area of Kabul Province.

The U.S., English, Egyptian, and Italian made arms and munitions have been recently transferred into the country by the extremists for the subversive activities and disturbance of peace in the country.

Our military correspondent says that the international news agencies have recently reported that transfer of a large amount of modern and heavy weapons and long-range surface to surface rockets, surface to air rockets, anti- personnel and anti-vehicle mines continue to the so-called "mujahidin" bases around Kabul.

Such convoys have been observed recently in south of Kabul as well. "NATO reserve" writings are seen on many of the said arms boxes.

Such weapons cause death of civilians including children, women, elders and destruction of residential houses, schools and hospitals the reporter stressed.

After enforcement of the Geneva agreements, the residential area of Kabul city and its surroundings have been hit by the surface to surface rockets of the extremists which killed over sixty-two persons including children, women and elders and one hundred four persons injured and a large number of residential houses damaged as well.

The reporter went on to say: The people of Afghanistan know well that the extremists have no other intention but killing innocent civilians and destruction of the country.

The Armed Forces of the country have carried out mopping up operations in different areas of the country including Lalandar area where a big depot of arms and munitions of the extremists was discovered and evacuated.

Six hundred fifty surface to surface rockets, two hundred anti-vehicle and three hundred anti-personnel mines which were hidden in the depot which were also destroyed by the Armed Forces in the said area.

The Armed Forces of the country are able to inflict heavy blows to the extremists any where at any time.

'Extremists' Attack Gardeyz

LD2209175188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Extremist armed groups yesterday afternoon fired 150 rocket missiles at residential areas of Gardeyz city.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reported from Gardeyz that as a result of these attacks, one of our compatriots was martyred and another four persons were seriously injured.

As a result of a missile attack the communal mosque of Gardeyz city, the Sakhi communal mosque, and the shrine of Shah-e Qambar, peace and mercy of God be upon him, were also seriously damaged. Moreover, 27 residential houses were partially destroyed.

According to another report the extremist elements yesterday hit the residential regions of Ghazni city with long-range missiles. Two children were martyred and a number of residential houses were partially destroyed or damaged.

As a result of a mopping-up operation which units of the Armed Forces began on 10 September to flush extremists out of the surroundings of Paghman District, Kabul Province, decisive blows were inflicted on the extremists.

According to a BAKHTAR military report, after an operation in the concentration centers of the extremists, 300 were crushed and 250 of the extremists were seriously injured.

It should be pointed out that during this period a large number of weapons and ammunition belonging to the extremists which were hidden in Paghman and Kabul city for the purpose of killing and disrupting social life, were discovered and seized by the country's Armed Forces. A number of the extremists depots were also destroyed.

Missiles Fired at Aybak

LD2209185688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Yesterday morning extremist elements fired eight surface-to-surface missiles on the residential area of Aybak city, the capital of Samangan Province.

As a result one child was injured and three residential houses were set ablaze. The fire was put out by the security forces and they prevented further damages.

Armed Forces Crush 'Extremists'

LD2209203688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Mopping up operations carried out yesterday by the Armed Forces in (Sarkoza) region, Qandahar Province, resulted in 13 extremists being killed and four enemy heavy weapons being eliminated.

Blows by the Armed Forces inflicted on extremists in the (Malan) Bridge region, Herat Province, crushed six extremists. An enemy weapons and ammunition depot was set ablaze, and foodstuff and seven antivehicle mines were seized.

According to another report, a number of warmongering elements attached to extremist groups engaged in armed activities in the surroundings of Gardez city yesterday came under heavy blows from the Armed Forces; 12 extremists were killed.

The Armed Forces also seized eight missiles, six rockets, and a number of light weapons.

Mopping up operations in Konarha Province resulted in 15 extremists being crushed yesterday in the Asmar, (Chinkora), (Sarkanay), and (Atapur) regions of the province, and another eight of them were seriously wounded.

Islamabae Details Attacks in 7 Provinces

BK2209153688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Reports received from Afghanistan say the mujahidin continue to apply pressure on Najib regime positions in Konduz, Baghlan, Kabul, Nangarhar, Helmand, Nimruz, and Ghowr Provinces.

In a surprise mujahidin attack in Konduz Province, five Kabul regime troops were killed and 400 vehicles destroyed. In Baghlan, 30 Kabul troops were killed, four armored vehicles and three posts destroyed, and two tanks damaged.

In Kabul Province, the mujahidin, in an operation in the Paghman region, took 20 Kabul troops as prisoners and occupied 60 large security posts. In Nangarhar Province, the mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on (Bahsil) and Jalalabad and killed 30 Kabul regime troops and damaged four tanks.

In Helmand, Nimruz, and Ghowr Provinces the mujahidin continued their attacks and occupied (Khasrud) and (Shahrad) Districts.

India

Pakistani Defense Secretary Meets With Gandhi

BK2209163288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The defense secretary, Ijlal Haider Zaidi, arrived in New Delhi today as the head of an eight-member Pakistan delegation for talks on Siachen.

He had a meeting with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, this evening and conveyed to him good wishes from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Earlier, the defense secretary had separate meetings with the Indian defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and his Indian counterpart, Mr T.N. Seshan.

Gandhi Departs on 3-Day Visit to Bhutan

BK2309065188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] The prime minister left New Delhi this morning on a 3-day visit to Bhutan. He was seen off at the airport by his cabinet colleagues and others.

Talking to newsmen, Mr Gandhi said his visit is an exercise to strengthen the existing good relations between the two countries.

President Returns From Visit to CSSR, Europe

BK2309041288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] The president, Mr Venkataraman, returned to New Delhi a short while ago after his four-nation visit. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, his cabinet colleagues and others.

Earlier, Mr Venkataraman was given a ceremonial send-off at Prague at the end of his 3-day visit to Czechoslovakia. He was seen off at the airport by the Czechoslovak president, Mr Gustav Husak. The president had earlier visited Cyprus, Finland, and the Netherlands.

2 'Terrorists,' 2 Soldiers Killed in Punjab

BK2209160988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists and two CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] were killed and three CRPF jawans injured in an encounter in Amritsar District this afternoon.

According to an official spokesman, the encounter followed when a CRPF patrol party was ambushed by the terrorists near village Purnia under Valtoha police station.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including a Chinese assault rifle, were recovered from the terrorists killed in the encounter.

Meanwhile, the Ropar District police have arrested two terrorists and recovered some weapons from their possession.

2 Killed by Punjab 'Terrorists'

BK2309033488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead two persons in Ferozepore District last evening.

Raj Mahinder Singh, a panchayat [village body] member, and his wife were attacked when they got down from a bus at a bus stand of their village, Butar.

3 'Terrorists' Arrested for Planting Bombs

BK2209163488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The Delhi police today arrested three suspected terrorists in connection with recent cases of planting of bombs in the capital. Terrorist Kashmira Singh, who was seriously injured in yesterday's blast, died in hospital.

The police commissioner, Mr Vijay Karan, told our correspondent that some vital clues have been received in the case and an inquiry is on.

It has been established that Kashmira Singh, along with others, was manufacturing explosive devices.

They are understood to have links with terrorists gangs in Punjab. Police parties have left from the state to investigate the link. All those arrested today are from Ghaziabad.

Briefs

Rajasthan Heroin Seizure

Rajasthan Police have seized heroin valued at over 3 crore rupees on the India-Pakistan border, about 120 km from Bikaner. Five smugglers were arrested while three escaped. They had brought the heroin from Pakistan. [Text] [*BK2309054588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Sep 88 BK*]

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2309133488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] On the 2d day of the Holy Defense Week period, devoted to praising the self-sacrificers, masses of Tehran inhabitants today were present at the University of Tehran and its surrounding throughfares for the Friday prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. We begin the news section for this hour with a report on the issues discussed in the Friday sermons in Tehran.

In the ceremonies of Tehran's Friday prayers, attended by a large number of the fighters of Islam, brave pilots of the Air Force and the Army Aviation Corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the monotheist inhabitants of Tehran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the day of praising the self- sacrificers—which falls on the 2d day of the Holy Defense Week and of honoring all the self-sacrificers of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war, and said: Self-sacrifice was made by a major section of the population of our society and if it were not for them and their self-sacrifice, the Islamic Revolution would have found it difficult to reach the point where it is today and to achieve the attention it has in the world. The speaker of the Majlis added: Those who have unflinchingly invested in this war and in the Islamic Revolution, in any form or manner, are manifestations of self-sacrifice. And when the war ends, we should draw up some plans for these glittering manifestations who are symbols of self-sacrifice in our society.

Continuing, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the start of the academic year and stressed the importance of education and training, placing value on these. The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces assessed 8 years of defense and resistance of our country's people, saying: If we were to look at the agenda of the imposed war, we would note something special about it, that a revolutionary country and nation stood alone in the face of all satans with all their financial, intelligence, and arms resources and the mischievous propagandists who came to the assistance of these satans. The arrogance of the East and West, together with the regional reaction, gave the aggressor and warmongering Iraqi regime whatever it needed to defeat this risen and revolutionary nation and the Islamic Revolution. Yet, after 8 years—apart from the human loss which is significant, because every loss of life is considered a major one—what we gained is important to us. And with these achievements, we have good military power and can also use these resources and experiences for the reconstruction of our country and society.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces added: Our nation has stood steadfast in the face of all the problems and conditions, which were created by our enemies against us, and resisted until achieving this victory. Good intelligence, acquiring military expertise, knowledge about arms and weapons, technical and combat strength, the capability to build and eliminate the difficulties involved in building complex and advanced military weapons, are all part of the outcome of this resistance. In addition to these, one can name the fighting capabilities of millions of fighters trained in battle.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the spiritual gains of 8 years of sacred defense and said: A culture which gave us 8 years of popular and heroic defense and all the things that our Armed Forces and our people created during this period, will insure this society for future centuries.

The Majlis speaker added: With all these experiences and a strong leadership and benefiting from the resources of this country which equal the resources of a whole continent, we can embark on the reconstruction of our society. The country's acting commander in chief, emphasized the resistance of our country's people in the face of various kinds of plots and said: Through our resistance we succeeded in defeating the most intense, profound, and dangerous conspiracies in the world and to prove that Islam is capable of being implemented and practiced as a way of life in the age of missiles and the atomic bomb. And we are the followers of Islam and the travellers along the path that has been presented as a gift from heaven to mankind; we want to show this path to the rest of mankind's societies.

In the Friday prayer sermons, Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid tribute to Shahriyar, the esteemed poet of Persian literature who passed away. Concerning the recent political currents in Lebanon, he also warned the officials of the Amal and Hezbollah of Lebanon.

Attempt on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Life Reported

TA2209194188 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that Hashemi-Rafsanjani survived an assassination attempt on Tuesday, 20 September. These reports indicate that opponents of the Majlis speaker intended to assassinate him in front of the Majlis building but did not succeed. Circles in Tehran are saying that individuals who aimed to murder Hashemi-Rafsanjani were IRGC personnel opposed to him.

KEYHAN Reports on 11-12 Sep Majlis Debates

PM2209152188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
12 Sep 88 pp 2-17-18

[First of two-part report on 11-12 September Majlis open session presided over by Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during which Majlis deputies spoke for and against individual members of Prime Minister Musavi's proposed cabinet following a call for a vote of confidence]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The third member to speak against the cabinet was Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, deputy from Tehran. He limited his opposition to the actions of the ministers of heavy industry, science and higher education, and economy and finance. He began: No one doubts that our main issue since the revolution has been the war and so this does not need any quotes from the imam, the deputy leadership, or government officials. If we were not to have drunk from the cup of poison, and if we were in circumstances different from those we now find ourselves, we should have had the biggest gains in heavy industries. Unfortunately, we did not do this. I am sorry that the Ministry of Heavy Industries could not in any way use and mobilize the vast industrial and manpower facilities at its disposal in the service of the war.

I do not wish to go into the various accusations of mismanagement and abuse of funds and so forth that have been leveled against the ministry. The story of the Saipa Company is known to everyone and to repeat it here would not solve anyone's problems. Nor will it help to go into the story of the $167 million given without prior permission to the Romanian Government as a bribe so that it would be willing to deliver 400 tractors to our country every month—which it never did. Or, there is the case of the problems that existed concerning the Algiers agreement, of which the judicial officials are aware. In that case, it seems some $12 to $40 billion were lost. Then there is the $100 million given for the proposed purchase of weapons and then spent on other things. There was also the DM450 paid to Germany for the purchase of loaders and so forth in the name of the IRGC and the Army which apparently they have denied.

He added: We had 8 years of war during which time our industry could have done many great things. If you wanted to make a simple machine, the first thing the Ministry of Heavy Industries should have done was to set up a strong research program and then start planning and experimenting for those things which we do not have. They should have made simple motors, which they did not. The vast capabilities of the tractor-building plants at Arak, Tabriz, and Khorasan should have been utilized and put to the service of the war; it was not done.

I heard that a strategic piece of equipment that was built by the IRGC needed a mold which, in turn, needed a machine that was in the hands of the Ministry of Heavy Industries. It took 6 months for the ministry to agree to hand over the machine to the IRGC. These were the problems that caused us to suffer the heavy consequences and damages of the war. I hope that the situation will be different from now on.

I will, of course, never give a vote to the gentleman who is the minister of heavy industries. I also am asking Mr Musavi to please pay more attention to the problems of that ministry and to try to make that ministry more active. This ministry should do for the rebuilding of the country what it should have done in the past; then our situation will be different. The situation in the future is no less important that our position in the past. A rethinking of the ministry's work and future programs is vital.

I am sure that the Ministry of Heavy Industries does not have a correct understanding of the phrase "self-sufficiency." If it did, it would have carried out its duties. One of the people in charge of self-sufficiency in that ministry came to see me one day and I was very pleased. I told him to cite one or two cases where this has been done so that I could use it in my speeches. He said we do not have hard currency. What he does not understand is that countries introduce self-suffiency programs to generate hard currency, not to spend it. He then said we do not have hard currency so we have not been able to do anything. Our only accomplishment, he said, is in the field of flour-making. We went to buy the machinery from the Soviet Union, but saw that the Soviets themselves were buying from the Swiss. Because we did not have the currency, we could not buy anything, and we did not get anywhere. I told him: Dear sir, if we buy wheat from Australia and then buy flour-making machines from Switzerland, does this mean we are self-sufficient? He did not have an answer to this question.

This is the sort of thinking that dominates the Ministry of Heavy Industries and this has to change. This business of following a certain line and the common sorts of attitudes must not rule over the country's biggest manufacturing body.

The second issue deals with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. If this ministry were effective, then its scientific capabilities should have been placed at the disposal of the war. You know that throughout the world's wars, those who have really fought the wars have been the thinkers. During World War II the laboratories and the researchers turned their research into material goods which they used in battle. Those responsible for war operations—of course the commanders of the IRGC and the Army are separate—those who know the secrets of the war and plan the operations are the scientists whose place would have been the Ministry of of Higher Education. Our laboratories and libraries should have worked two or three shifts a day during the war. Instead, we saw the brothers who came from Kerman and Tabriz to solve their research problems in Tehran, leaving with tears in their eyes.

I know of a situation where a researcher prepared a text of a plan after long, hard, and valuable work. He gave it to a university to publish; it stayed there for 5 years untouched, because of this business of being in someone's "line" and because of personal differences among the management. It did not get published because they would not give permission. After that particular manager was promoted and left that office, the text was printed immediately without any changes. Of course, this sort of thing damages people's initiative and enthusiasm.

Naturally, cooperation and coordination between our scientists and our industries could have strengthened our position in the war and the situation could have been different from what actually happened. I think that shortages, misunderstandings, and the lack of programs between the mentioned ministries created these very bitter days for us now. [passage omitted]

I believe there are also problems in the Ministry of Finance. Perhaps the incorrect tax policies are very important and they should be thought about. I believe there should be more use of dedicated people. There must be honesty among the management, especially in the customs area where this has to be taken seriously. Bribery, stealing, and embezzlement are not proper in our Islamic Republic. I myself know of a case in the Kerman customs office where hundreds of more pistachios than the country was able to produce were allegedly exported. Someone collected the documents and gave them to judicial authorities. I personally then handed the files and background to the prime minister and, fortunately, he gave the proper orders. That brother of ours has not had his share of justice, but we hope he will. We need customs, the Ministry of Finance, and the country's financial future to be managed more honestly. [passage omitted]

The fourth deputy who spoke in opposition was Seyfollah Ja'fari, the deputy from Orumiyeh. [passage omitted] Concerning Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, the minister of interior, he said: I have great respect for his struggles in the past and I kiss his hands for that, but one must mention his self-centered attitudes and the fact that he disregards the law and the Majlis. Some of his supporters ascribe a special power to him and regard him as something like a god, as someone special in Mr Musavi's government. One of the brothers said Mr Mohtashemi is like a prime minister in a powerful government instead of an interior minister in a weak government.

These idealist attitudes do not have much future. He is well-known for his hiring and firing; he regards himself as the only power. He neither consults the clergy, nor does he pay attention to the deputies. With regard to the law, he acts wherever he sees fit and in accordance with his own will.

Concerning the elections he said: Before the elections, propaganda caravans were organized on his behalf and his supporters to promote the candidates he wanted. We saw that clashes almost occurred in the 'Azam mosque in Orumiyeh. His supporters say: Do not talk about his weaknesses. He is a revolutionary who has abandoned the issues of the Interior Ministry to prevent a disaster that is about to occur in the country. What I do not know is what this disaster could possibly be that, God forbid, the imam or the deputy leadership know nothing about. Nonetheless, a few people know about it and create tension.

The Majlis deputy continued: His appointees sell gasoline illegally in the provinces and bury iron girders. There is a film about this. The film "An Iron Letter" was prepared by the governorate of Western Azarbayjan Province and tells how, against all regulations, they gave girders to favorite people while for 8 months the innocent and deprived villagers were not given one rod. Also, several truckloads of girders were buried just outside Orumiyeh, but the full story on that is not clear yet. They take bribes from people and they assualt people. They meddle in judicial affairs and influence Majlis deputies. There are documents to prove this.

The one thing that does not seem to receive attention in our province is the pain and suffering of the poor people who the respected interior minister claims to support more than anyone else. Now because of bad management and lack of attention by officials, people are getting killed over bread. One of the brother clergymen has written that the bread lines are so chaotic and busy that someone was squashed to death in the line. Fighting has occurred in Islamabad and Orumiyeh. I mentioned these things in my reports, but no one took any notice until someone was killed. We hope other killings will be prevented.

The deputy from Orumiyeh continued: Concerning revenge-seeking on the part of the Hezbollah and those who have suffered because of the revolution, despite the wishes of the Friday imam, most of the deputies, and the families of the martyrs, they removed the martyred brother Shokrollahi from his post and put in a governor someone who did not even know the streets in Orumiyeh, let alone the problems and the culture of the people.

Elements of the Interior Ministry have inflamed the Hezbollah people and the families of martyrs. A father who has given two martyrs to God complains about the governor and the governor general's office. He now shouts against Islam and regrets that he gave two sons to Islam. The Kameli family has lost four martyrs, but he himself has been replaced at the Foundation of the Oppressed. If you do not believe my words, ask my constituents.

There was a person who defended the clergy and stood up to the anticlergy management. They dismissed him and banished him to Bandar-e 'Abbas where he received a lower salary. Mr Hojaji, the deputy from Miyaneh and the former Friday imam of that town, has written about the individualistic actions of those appointed by Mr

Mohtashemi. This man wrote out an order for the governor and governor general that forbade the manager of a commercial bank to enter the bank. The bank closed for 2 days, creating tension in the town. It became clear after 2 days that this was against the law and that the judicial authorities had to be called in and the banking council informed. This is all part of their taking the law into their own hands and acting alone.

He concluded by addressing the interior minister: I hope you will not try to defend the deviations. I do not want to name names and give lists. I will only name one case. On page 7 of ETTELA'AT of the 24th of an unnamed month this year there was a piece about a student getting a job in one of the governorate generals of a province on the border. From the start, this man was deviate and had mixed-up thoughts. He wanted to go abroad but because of his deviate beliefs they did not give him a visa. He then wanted to become a Majlis deputy in the third term but the officials rejected him. How can someone who is declared unfit to run for parliament by the executive officials be given a responsible job in such a sensitive border province? [passage omitted]

Hedi Ja'fari, the deputy from Tehran, spoke in opposition and reminded listeners that as observers the deputies were allowed to voice their views on the executive power to which they had given their vote. He said: My opposition is to the brothers who have been introduced for the Ministries of the IRGC, Housing and Urban Development, Industries, Information, Health, and Defense.

I will start with the IRGC Ministry. First, let me explain because sometimes there is confusion. Opposition to the IRGC Ministry is commenting on the management and has nothing to do with the great and brave fighting forces who keep bright the flames of the Islamic Revolution. This is to do with management or, as I shall put it, mismanagement. To read the material quickly I have prepared notes in the form of a report on the actions of the IRGC Ministry. I did not want it to leave the Majlis and I have some classified material in there which I will not read. I have written them for myself so I have them on file. The parts that I am able to read out I will do so. The parts that I cannot read out I will give to the respected speaker of the Majlis.

What can we say about the IRGC Ministry and who should say these things? Is there in this country a person or an organization who knows about the deals that have taken place, the way they really took place and not the way it was announced? If someone wants to write about that ministry's situation, without a doubt they will not be able to tell the truth. I will speak only of parts of the story, the bits that we were able to see and, in this case, I may be touching only the tip of the iceberg. In the report I am about to give you, I have to the best of my ability written about the problems of this ministry and the reasons for them, which is the mismanagement on the part of the IRGC minister. This ministry, with all its departments, has two main departments: one for purchasing, and one for manufacturing.

This ministry's conditions for purchase is based on friendship and looking after one's own, quite the opposite of what is done in other organizations everywhere in the world. This ministry sent soldiers all over the world to buy items. A soldier's file reached the security department of intelligence only when a passport was issued. He then would leave for Europe or wherever with a suitcase full of money. If the security office found out about the proposed trip sooner through other sources, someone would insist that he should go and they would use their influence. When the soldier was sent abroad to negotiate a purchase, it was without the slightest knowledge of the country involved. In order to buy a few rockets, they were forced to buy cannon shells. After the contract was drawn up and the price agreed, several times more than the usual price, the shipment arrived with nothing but cannon shells. No rockets were found anywhere. An investigation was launched after one such extensive purchase. It was found that the country visited did not produce rockets at all. I wish this sort of dealing had only happened once or twice or three times. Unfortunately, whoever arrived on the scene started from zero. The salesman went through the streets and hotel lobbies of Europe in search of Iranian buyers, with the help of exiled royalists and other counterrevolutionary groups. If they found the IRGC buyer they spoke so highly of the trashy goods to be sold that the buyer finally is satisfied and pays hundreds of times more for the items than his competitor buyer from the Armed Forces for the privilege of buying the better material.

Another IRGC Ministry speciality is that demand is never factored into the negotiations for purchase. The ratio for demand is related to the ratio of supply and this is linked to the rate of commission and percentages and saturating the mind of the buyer. They sometimes would go out and buy the country's entire needs for matches for 1 year and then they come up against logic. The wise people of this ministry and the intelligence officials sometimes find out that an agreement has been signed to provide the country's needs for fiberglass over several years, and far beyond need, and they come across something that has already been done.

In these purchases, the demand usually did not match the amounts purchased. In any area, if the experts asked specific questions, they did not get the right answers. This can be proven in any field with a simple test. On the other hand, the warehouses piled up for years full of goods which no one has used speak the truth for themselves. This all proves that the purchases were based not on exact figures of demand, but on an unstudied and naive demand by a group who did not know enough. The problem is that the effects of these purchases are different from one another. Perhaps one time they bought a huge quantity of shoe laces rather than boot laces, or else with all those computers and loads of office workers who

did not want to go to war, there were no lists of shoe and dress sizes for Armed Forces personnel. Sometimes the results and the issues were far more complex and dangerous, which I will mention in my report to the speaker of the Majlis. [passage omitted]

The other issue concerns expensive purchases. This was either done unknowingly or according to a plan. In one case, a group went out to buy without any knowledge or expertise and, obviously, anyone could fool them. There is no other price with which to compare. On the other hand, competitor buyers from the ministry could enter the company doors soon after the first group departs and bid a higher price, thereby clinching the deal and leaving the first group empty-handed. If the second group did not succeed, even a third or fourth group from the same office of the deputy minister could bid on the same goods with different prices. They would ask the seller for the goods at up to 40 times more than the original set price, thereby scaring the seller to such an extent that he would think the issue would be discovered and he would lose the deal even at the first set price. The ministry buyer whose name is equal to that of martyrs would then tell the man: Do not worry, these people are all stupied and there is no one here to find out about this.

In one foreign deal the real price of the item was so different from the prices actually paid that it has not even been mentioned until today. It got so bad that the sales manager of a foreign manufacturer of electronic material wrote a private letter to the IRGC minister in order to protect the reputation of his company, saying that the prices quoted to the ministry, even by the Iranian buyers were unreal and expensive. I wished the letter had had some positive effect. No one ever found out at what price the goods were bought from that factory. [passage omitted]

Another type of purchase often involving high prices and cheating is the quick cash sale. Ususally, they let one item finish in the market to create a black market for those items or else it is a simple case of mismanagement and laziness. Sometimes an item such as surgical thread or gauze would run out. When they had thousands of wounded on their hands, they suddenly would realize that there was no thread or surgical tape and that is when they would think of buying this material. If this piece of news is looked at along with those reports received from the hospitals, it is enough to make one shiver because it becomes clear that this was done on purpose and resulted in the loss of many volunteers. When they enter the hospital with an open stomach and a broken skull and hear from the surgeons in the emergency ward that there is no surgical tape or thread in the warehouse and that someone is just about to go and buy some, they lose faith in everything and start swearing at everything that is holy and sacred. They shout slogans against officials.

Another evil is labeling as "strategic" an item which is quite ordinary and sometimes available in the country. This is done so the prices can be justified and not compared with the real prices offered by other ministries to firms and companies abroad. If the brothers would like, I have about 80 or 90 cases proving the points raised. If they want, they can get in touch with me and I will provide them with the evidence.

Another issue is abuse of the law, although this ministry has nothing to do with the law. Contrary to law, they give other ministries permission to release goods. They act as a private company and release the capitalists' goods after payment of bribes to the individual or the ministry or else they import something more than necessary and they sell the extra material on the free market.

There is no doubt that the country has shortages when it comes to weapons and ammunition. The question is, is the real problem the lack of facilities or something else? To answer this question we have to see if if the existing material is kept properly and then used to its maximum capacity. If they say we have shortages of ammunition compared with the volume of the war, we believe them. However, do they believe this themselves? This claim has been denied several times.

Six years ago, if the dedicated youth had gotten wind of what was going on any later, a quantity of Dragon missiles which had lost some of their paint would have been destroyed as damaged or malfunctioning ammunition by a group who knew no better. Why are we so careless when it comes to storage? Expensive warehouses catch fire and explode one after another. If we believe that these explosions are unwanted accidents, which have an adverse affect on the hard currency reserves in the country and a direct blow against the war effort, then why is it that the people who cause these accidents become deputy ministers instead of being punished?

Is the punishment for not having regard for the blood of martyrs and the pain of the poor a deputy ministerial post and a promotion? If not, what did they do with those who caused the incidents at Tehran, Tabriz, Qazvin, Esfahan, and everywhere in the south and east? Covering up incidents and putting them in a so-called box to prevent them from becoming known are very serious issues.

Part of the expense and the price of ammunition all over the world goes into its careful packaging which is dictated by the buyer-country's natural and military conditions. These people took the ammunition out of the protective wrapping in order to facilitate delivery and to fit more into the trucks. They carried them in sacks in such a way that millions of dollars worth of precious ammunition was destroyed in one go, not only because of ignorance but because safety and scientific factors were disregarded, and also because of laziness. In innocent Kordestan, trucks and road-building machines sat stationary on the roads because their tires were worn out. A group of youths from this area risked their lives and

the dangers of ambush to keep them safe. This was happening while the IRGC Ministry had within its jurisdiction warehouses filled with tires.

Another example: Thousands of blankets were burned in a warehouse fire, and the volunteer troops had thanked God for these blankets. Meanwhile, we were shivering in the winter cold, and the people in charge of supplies were saying they do not have blankets. In another case, thousands of compasses kept in a warehouse were destroyed in an explosion. God only knows how many children of this dedicated land did not have a compass in the operations that were being carried out at that time in the open fields in the south in misty and dusty weather. They rand around in circles so much and for so long that they were either martyred or fell into enemy hands.

These people would test chemicals on sheep for experimental purposes and a little while later sell the same sheep to the people, saying the sheep had now recovered. They had no regard for people's health and safety. [passage omitted]

When these people got a hold of a few chemical, after a great deal of difficulty, they stored the material in a spot near Tehran without thinking of its security and health implications. If something had happened to this material, keeping in mind the location of the goods, the wind would have carried the deadly fumes to the crowded sections of Tehran. There was an incident on the scene and, following the disclosure of the place where this material was kept, it was discovered that there had been several fires. However, no such fires had been reported to officials. The comments of the workers in the area with regard to the safekeeping of this material also were ignored. It also is not clear if the containers holding this chemical had special markings to separate it from other chemicals. In one case, instead of chloric acid, mustard gas was used to clean a toilet and basin in one building. As a result, one person was killed and several others were injured.

One of the first directives with regard to ammunition warehouses is that dry grass be cleared from the immediate area in case of fire. The respected IRGC officials who were in charge of ammunition supplies rented out the flat roofs of multimillion dollar ammunition warehouses to shepherds so they could graze their sheep. [passage omitted]

One can imagine the sensitive detonator at the end of a bullet. There has never been, or we have never had a case, where these detonators have exploded all by themselves because of normal heat in hot climates or because of normal blows. The incidents are so small that it would be safe to say they do not occur even one in a million in the world. Now, let us see how the IRGC Ministry regarded the quality control of detonators. One type of detonator bought by this ministry gave a negative response in 17 out of 50 tests. So the ratio of damage was not one in a million, but rather 37 percent. This is quite normal in the IRGC Ministry. They do not regard something that does not work as damaged because they say it would mean financial loss. [passage omitted]

Deputies Continue Cabinet Debate

PM2209153188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Sep 88 pp 6-16

[Second of two-part report on 11-12 September Majlis open session presided over by Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani during which Majlis deputies spoke for and against individual members of Prime Minister Musavi's proposed cabinet following a call for a vote of confidence]

[Excerpts] Yunis Mohammadi, deputy from Khorramshahr, was next to speak in opposition. [passage omitted] I am now addressing the respected brother Mr Sarhadi, the labor minister. The brothers who have spoken in his favor have stressed that this dedicated gentleman has gone to prison. No one is denying that, but it is just not enough. As far it is known, his education is at a level where other people responsible in his ministry with their level of education can get the better of him and can give direction to the work of the ministry. He acts in a very limited way in choosing his employees. It says in his biography that he finished his third year of high school.

Three years ago, the foundation looking into affairs of refugees from the imposed war was incorporated into the Labor Ministry. This was done to solve the problems of 1.5 million homeless war refugees whose welfare could not be separated from the war, and the imam had already said that looking after war refugees is equal to prayers.

The labor minister mentioned nothing in his programs about the refugees. This involved 1.5 million refugees whose conditions have been seen by some of the brother deputies. Mr prime minister saw several months ago the refugees' situation in Aqajari and 'Amadiyah and the deputies know their conditions. The brother deputies heard for 8 years from other deputies the conditions of the war refugees, yet this minister presented no plans for them.

With those conditions and under the circumstances, when the foundation was handed to his ministry, he showed weakness when it came time to choose his deputies. Of course, he may say there were to have been discussions. There was some discussion with regard to the manager and some of the deputies were consulted. Mr Sharifi was chosen to head the foundation, but after a while he resigned saying he was not a puppet to have others choose everyone in the organization from doormen to deputies. He chose then Mr Kamil-Taqavi but because the Majlis deputies objected to him, Mr Garshasbi was chosen. He really did his job well and no one knows why he was removed from his post. Mr Zaytuni-Nejad then was chosen with the approval of seven Majlis

deputies. The five war-torn provinces and their deputies including those from Qasr-e Shirin, Khorramshahr, and Marivan which were on the direct line of fire and on the border were not consulted.

Of course in 1985, we wrote some letters asking him to name a good, wise manager. I would like to mention Mr Zaytuni-Nejad's age. He is 26 years old and wants to face 1.5 million war refugees, people who have been hurt emotionally. One needs an experienced manager for the foundation of war refugees, one who can deal in a dignified manner with people who have become poor and oppressed because of Islam.

According to a letter written by the revolution prosecutor in Ahvaz to the chief justice concerning Mr Zaytuni-Nejad, this gentleman has to be removed from his post and prosecuted in accordance with a letter from the country's chief investigator. There are other issues mentioned in this letter which I am going to give to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Mostafa Mo'men-Zadeh, Majlis deputy from Kerman, was the next to speak in opposition. [passage omitted]

He commented on the work of Health Minister Dr Marandi. He said as far as his piety was concerned there was no need for debate. The question of jihad comes to mind first. Jihad for a minister does not mean physical presence on the fronts, although that is open for discussion, but rather jihad in terms of a serious presence of the elements under the minister's control in the service of the war, particularly in the case of a ministry like health, which must deal with troops all the way from the front lines to behind the fronts.

For the question of cleanliness and health, I will only ask the brother deputies who toured the most sensitive lines of defense on the fronts with us a few weeks ago. They can relate what the conditions of our fighters were and what diseases there were. Dr Marandi says that in 1987 doctors sent to the fronts totalled 4,237. If we calculate each doctor to be serving 1 month, we reach the figure of 1,186 doctors being present at any given time. The deputies can well imagine for themselves what this small figure means when it comes to dealing with troops that number well over 1 million.

With regard to the treatment given the soldiers, as a commander who was involved with the troops, I must mention their dissatisfaction very clearly. The commander of our battalion was wounded and taken to a hospital in one of the provinces. They were so late and slow that he was martyred. His last message to his father and mother was: "They have killed us." His parents can testify to this. [passage omitted]

The speaker then talked about health conditions in the country, saying the situation in terms of quality and quantity is not hidden from anyone. He added: I only want to mention one Tehran hospital—a posh one at that—and keeping this in mind, the situation in provinces further away does not need explaining. There is only one Iranian doctor available every few days. In the Tehran Heart Hospital—the hospital I referred to—the turn for each patient to be examined is about once a year and the waiting list for open-heart surgery is 5 years. We have people who have been waiting to be operated on since 1982, while a private hospital easily performs the operation upon payment of 2 million rials. According to attendance records at the heart hospital, at the end of last year, some 21,000 people were waiting for beds. Under the present conditions, it would take about 10 years for people to have their turn. If the question is raised on the shortage of doctors and money, it must be asked how 60,000 beds in government hospitals compete with 8,000 beds in private hospitals? Mr Harati who expressed satisfaction with the state of country's health better ask deputy Dr Rah-Chamani about the Tehran Emergency Center. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Speech Praises People, Armed Forces

LD2209115788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0935 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Speech by President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, on the 1st day of the Holy Defense Week, at a ceremony in Azadi Square on 22 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [Koranic verse omitted] The begining of Holy Defense Week is accompanied by great honors for the Iranian nation this year. This has not been so in past years. In previous years, our nation and our Armed Forces were engaged in defense. However, the results of this holy defense during these years became clear to our people and to the world only this year. This year we begin the week under conditions which, as the whole world can see, are governed by two fundamental issues.

The first issue is that the enemies of the Islamic Republic, using political, economic, military, and propaganda methods and imposing 8 years of war on this nation, were not able to impose their objectives on us. None of their plans materialized, neither the dismantling of the Islamic system, nor the weakening of it; neither the partition of Iran, nor the weakening and destruction of the Armed Forces. These were the objectives that world arrogance wanted to impose on our nation through war. After 8 years we, together with the rest of the world, can clearly see that none of the enemy's objectives were realized through this war. This is a great victory for our nation and a great defeat for arrogance in the face of our revolution, our nation, and our Islam.

The second issue that the world can understand and sum up this year is the unique [word indistinct], ceaseless, and continuous defense of our nation during the last 8 years. For 8 years this nation did not shy away from confronting the enemy—an 8-year bond between every individual member of the public and the Armed Forces,

and an 8-year indefatigable and ceaseless effort on the part of the Armed Forces. Today our Armed Forces can see this result in their shining 8-year reputation. It is something our nation can admire, while other nations can praise it. This year, although we are not at war at the fronts, in no way can we consider the threat to the nation has lessened. The enemy still intends to wage conspiracies against this nation and this revolution, if it finds the means to do so. It was due to weakness and inability that the enemy positioned its forces behind its borders. If the enemy does not have any sense of weakness, if at any moment the enemy feels that our forces are not ready, or our nation is tired, it is possible that the same threats and conspiracies may be repeated.

We begin this week on this note. Our message to all of the Armed Forces is one of total and absolute readiness. And our message to the individual members of the nation and to the proud and fighting youth and to those hearts full of faith is exactly the same sense of readiness. We must be prepared. We must understand the enemy and the fact that it is not bound by international treaties and regulations. Today, we are in a firm position in the negotiations and we will not in anyway make concessions. At the same time, we would like to stand by our positions and promises in an honest manner as our Islamic faith and our Islamic upbringing requires. Therefore, we will follow the peace and cease-fire negotiations honestly. At the same time we will preserve our readiness and mental agility in order to confront the enemy's conspiracies, and the entire nation should do so, also.

On this 1st day of Holy Defense Week, I congratulate all of you on your steadfast, loving, and courageous defense of the nation. I see this as a shining episode in the history of the Islamic Revolution and of the Iranian nation. I ask the Almighty for success for you dear ones and for the Armed Forces, who have been the spearhead of this divine battle. Peace and God's benedictions be upon you.

Reza'i, General Discuss War Issues at Roundtable

NC2209195188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 22 Sep 88

["Weekly Political Roundtable" discussion with IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i and Brigadier General Hoseyn Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Afshar] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. My salutations to you, dear noble viewers and esteemed compatriots. I pray for the success of each one of you, dear brothers and sisters. We are once again at your service with another program in the series called "Weekly Political Roundtable." Allow me to introduce the participants of the program to you: Respected Brother Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the IRGC, and Brother Brigadier General Hoseyn Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Brigadier, sir, what kept Iraq on its feet was the high level of foreign assistance. Since Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, the true aggressive nature of the Iraqi regime has been exposed and confirmed before the people of the world. If Iraq continues with its obstructionism with a view to repeating its military aggression against Iran, the powers may refrain from assisting Iraq and ostensibly impose an arms embargo against Iraq. My question is: How do you assess the strength of the Iraqi Armed Forces minus foreign aid?

[Hasani-Sa'di] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Regarding your question, I think a brief clarification would be appropriate.

[Afshar] Please go ahead.

[Hasani-Sa'di] The Iraqi Armed Forces, as you said, were fully equipped and prepared by the superpowers during the 8 years of the imposed war. All facilities were placed at its disposal in abundance. The equipment and weapons we seized from Iraq during these 8 years were mostly what had been given to Iraq by foreign countries. Very little of this equipment could have been manufactured by the Iraqi Armed Forces or indeed by Iraq. Almost all of it was imported and used [masrafi]. In contrast, our fighters, who succeeded in resisting Iraq for the 8 years of the imposed war and, as our brother said, were able to inflict heavy defeats during the second half of the war, used what resources and equipment they had. They were able to achieve superiority by providing for their own needs. [passage omitted]

You asked whether, if this assistance had been withheld from Iraq, or perhaps we should say if they had not assisted Iraq and it had to rely on its own resources in the fighting, it would have been able to resist for a while, with its own resources and strength. We should not underestimate our enemy in this regard. However, we are certain that in a long-term operation Iraq would definitely have collapsed and would not have had the same persistence and determination that Iran had. It would most certainly have collapsed with the loss of its resources, whether in maintenance and procurement or because of the losses that it would have sustained.

This point should not be interpreted as meaning that the Iraqi Armed Forces are such that if they are not given any assistance they would not be able to last more than 5, 6, or 12 months. We would then become very complacent in this regard and become lax in preparing and equiping our forces. Instead, it is essential that we endeavor to attain a high level of combat capability in the meantime. We must have a combat force of a high standard and quality so that we can attain a dazzling preponderance over the Iraqi Armed Forces, in circumstances, as you said, in which assistance to Iraq is halted.

[Afshar] Thank you very much. Mr Reza'i, many people believe that the IRGC's duty is to support the Islamic Revolution and that the IRGC should be able to enter on the scene of action whenever necessary. For example, in wartime it takes part in military operations and in peacetime it works for internal security. Do you concur in this viewpoint or do you oppose it? I think the people would like to hear a succinct description of the IRGC's duties, if you would be so kind.

[Reza'i] I think that this question arose in the people's minds as the IRGC entered into action on various occasions and in various places. When the IRGC was established and first came into existence, it entered into action even before it had been given the necessary form to enable it to resist threats. It learned in the crucible of experience. [passage omitted]

The IRGC did not have any prior preparation for war. It entered the foray without delay and achieved major victories. Other problems arose, such as the issue of the hijacking. The IRGC brothers, acting on the instructions of the imam, participated in combating the hijacking and crushed the enemy's plots. In the Persian Gulf, U.S. warships came and stationed their forces there. Suddenly, speedboats appeared, foiled the enemy's plots, and defeated the enemy's designs. The surface to surface missiles, once considered impossible for the revolutionary forces to procure, fell into the hands of the IRGC and they used them in a remarkable manner against the enemy's main centers, such as Baghdad, Kirkuk, and other places. [passage omitted]

The triple forces of the IRGC recently celebrated the anniversary of the imam's historic statement in which he stated that they should defend the revolution alongside the Armed Forces. He stressed that just as the Armed Forces are always present, so the IRGC should also defend the revolution.

The IRGC's duties are clear on this basis. If the officials and leaders put forward new ideas on the functions of the IRGC they will be followed by the IRGC accordingly. What has been clear and definite so far is that the IRGC's triple forces, as well as the special forces for use against the counterrevolution which are at its disposal, work alongside the brothers in the Armed Forces. As a matter of fact, the IRGC is part of the Armed Forces, and vice versa. Together they comprise the revolution's Armed Forces, along with the law enforcement forces; that is, the army of Islam. Past experience has shown us that we have a great need of one another. We do not have any problems in practice and we have fought side by side.

[Afshar] Thank you. Brigadier, the most important military gain of a war, from the military point of view, is, I think, the experiences gleaned in the course of the war, particularly for senior commanders. Naturally, our commanders must have acquired numerous valuable experiences in the 8-year war, particularly as they were involved in holy defense. However, this has not been collected, documented, and compiled. If this is not done, these experiences will obviously be forgotten with the passage of time and posterity will not benefit from them. For example, the experiences we have gained in the 8 years of holy defense will be denied to posterity. Now that there is a cease-fire and our Armed Forces have more peace, have any fundamental steps been taken for the compilation and documentation of this experience?

[Hasani-Sa'di] I must say that in the course of these 8 years of war we did not sit down and wait for a whole phase of the war to end so that we could then write about our gains and experiences or take steps to document them. I think I should mention that since the commencement of the war, all the experiences gained in the course of operations were directly disseminated in cultural and academic centers. We also have research and assessment committees in the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Reza'i, some political observers believe that by laying down various preconditions during the Geneva talks, Iraq is trying to prolong the talks. In this way it wants to create the impression that it is still at war with Iran and that therefore the regulations applicable to wartime are still in force. Thus it has embarked upon annihilating its enemies within Iraq, including the Kurds. It is trying to prolong the talks so that it may be able to wipe out all the elements of struggle who oppose the Iraqi regime from within. Could you please give us your assessment of this conclusion reached by the political observers? Also, could you tell us whether the prolongation of the talks has a military purpose as well? If so, would it not be preferable for us to initiate the phased dispatch once again, in a more definite and overt manner to remain at a high level of readiness?

[Hasani-Sa'di] Yes. In fact, a few days ago a session was held at the general headquarters of the Joint Staff Command. The commanders of the IRGC and the Armed Forces participated. The possibility that you referred to in your question was mentioned. There could be a military reason for prolonging the talks as well as economic and political ones. The military reason is that at the same time as eliminating the elements of internal resistance, the enemy has also actively embarked on strengthening our counterrevolutionary forces—the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] groups, the Komeleh, the Democrats, the fugitives, the monarchists. Nearly all of these are being trained and equipped by Iraq.

Reports indicate that Iraq is trying not to surrender to Resolution No 598 in haste. On the other hand, for 8 years Iraq enjoyed protection. Saddam and the Ba'th Party were preserved by the support of the superpowers. Now that Iraq feels this protection is lessening, it is apprehensive of its obligation to pay its debts. In view of its fear of a halt to the foreign support which it was getting during the war and in view of the mounting political and economic problems and rising military pressure, we feel the enemy will not be in a hurry to acccept the resolution.

It will continue the condition of neither war nor peace. In the meantime, it may make use of the counterrevolutionary forces or engage in aerial attacks. In any case, it has been decided that our forces should be prepared. The Joint Staff Command will announce a program for phased dispatch and the country should continue in a state of vigilance and alertness until the end of the year 1367 [March 1988-February 1989]. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Reza'i, one of the problems which the IRGC—an organization now mentioned in the constitution as well—faces is the question of personnel. These problems do not surface when certain events are happening, but emerge when these issues have settled down. For example, a guard who has served for 10 years may see that after all these years all he has to do is to be on guard duty and there is no area for advancement. Therefore, he feels it may be better to take another job. This is a danger faced by such forces who are the mainstay of the IRGC. They may go outside and take another job. Have any plans been made so that these real assets of the IRGC should not be lost?

[Reza'i, laughing] It is not as if all they do is guard duty. Today the IRGC has become an organized body. It has formed divisions and battalions which have gained valuable experience in the field of action. The equipment that we seized from Iraq as booty, or that they manufacatured in Iran itself, as our dear brother Brig Gen Hasani-Sa'di, the respected commander of the Ground Forces, mentioned—this is used by our brothers in the IRGC. Perhaps because the IRGC grew so swiftly and extensively there was no time to explain its achievements to the people. Thus, as you said, they think that all they have to do is carry out guard duty. [passage omitted]

The possibilities at the disposal of the IRGC are immense but we did not content ourselves with them. A training program and reconstruction has been initiated at the behest of the imam. This program is of 3 to 5 years duration; we feel that in 3 to 5 years' time we will be able to award academic military degrees which will represent their military experience. They will also be given academic instruciton at athe IRGC training centers and degrees from these centers will also be given to our brothers. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Reza'i, while you were talking about the future organization of the IRGC and the awarding of academic degrees, the question arose in my mind as to whether the future awarding of ranks to the IRGC is also being considered. These ranks should not carry any material benefits. In the Armed Forces the rank structure has two aspects. One pertains to the chain of command, obedience to superiors, and military discipline. The other pertains to material benefits. This second aspect is what may harm the IRGC. By the grace of God, there is plenty of discipline and organization in the IRGC but if ranks are awarded along with material benefits, the fraternal spirit may be lost. The fighters would feel that differences have been created among them and discrimination has crept in. Could you please comment on this?

[Reza'i] As the esteemed officials of the country have delegated this responsibility to the IRGC and asked for its ideas on whether ranks should be awarded, the IRGC offered certain suggestions which in our view are acceptable, including: that the brothers in the IRGC should not have ranks and the Armed Forces should, or that the ranks of other armed forces would be eliminated. Therefore, there should be some sort of coordination between the Armed Forces and the IRGC, and the IRGC should have a system of ranks, as in operations, law enforcement, and many other departments.

It was also put forward that in foreign protocol matters, we faced certain difficulties, including our dealings with the UN forces. If our high-level IRGC commander meets with a colonel of the United Nations, the latter does not know what his rank is and waits for him to salute him and stand at attention, and some feel that a mere military policeman has been sent to protect a colonel of the United Nations! A number of our brothers have been treated with contempt in some cases, merely because their military ranking was unclear. For example, when they went abroad to visit those who were sent to receive them were at a very low level. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Brigadier, sir, in light of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, is it possible that there may be some changes in the length or conditions of military conscription? If so, what are they?

[Hasani-Sa'di] First, I wish to refer to your previous question to Brother Mr Reza'i. You mentioned that the awarding of ranks is a sign of discrimination. I wish to say that ranks do not denote discrimination; they indicate the responsibility which can be shouldered by that particular individual and are based on the regulations, relations, and discipline in an environment. There is no discrimination, whether one is a major or a lieutenant. It merely indicates their capability, responsibility, and assignment.

[Afshar] I apologize, please proceed.

[Hasani-Sa'di] We specify the length of consciption by considering the war needs. Let me say it clearly. Our laws state that for 2 years of service, some service in the reserve forces is also envisaged. [passage omitted] God willing, if we reach a durable peace, we will certainly revise the lengthy of miltiary service. There will be no reason to continue the extra 4 months for the reserve forces in peace time. It will be revised and return to the previous amount of time. If conditions so dictate it may even be further reduced. This depends on the need for combat units, which will be dispatched accordingly.

[Afshar] Thank you very much. Mr Reza'i, in view of the fact that today is 31 Shahrivar [22 September] and Holy Defense Week has commenced, we have 8 years of holy defense behind us. To conclude the program, could you sum up for our viewers the gains of this 8-year-long defense?

[Reza'i] We entered into the action in a war for which we did not have any opportunity to prepare. On the one hand, all our foreign relations and ties with the world had been severed. On the other, the Armed Forces of our country were—due to the advent and birth of the revolution—in a state of disarray and disorganization. These factors led the world to think that Iraq's victory and our defeat were certainties, and this belief featured in their decisions. They were 100 percent sure that Iraq would be victorious, that our independence would soon be wrested from us, the stability of our revolution shattered, and the Islamic revolution prevented from being consolidated in the fabric of our society, and this made them impose a war on us.

We may sum up the gains of our 8-year holy defense as follows: First, the emergence of an Islamic character and its spirituality and the manifestation of an Islamic nature in the continuation of an 8-year long struggle. Islamic slogans were revived in our society, our young men were trained on the battlefronts, and their characters forged. Terms such as courage, valor, heroism, self-sacrifice and many other Islamic concepts were resuscitated in our society. They took firm root and served to train our country's youth. [passage omitted]

There were also political and military gains in addition to the moral ones. One important political gain was the attainment of complete independence. We reached our independence and protected our territorial integrity; we defeated the expansionist designs of our enemies and they became pessimistic of any return to Iran. They comprehended that this country has reached stability and complete independence. If our combatants had not defended us on the battlefields, we would definitely have become dependent again, God forbid.

The military gains were very extensive. For example, there were the innovations that we attained on the battlefields. The Armed Forces were once again revitalized in the country and once again the defense of the economy, our policy, and our culture was accentuated. Certain factors which had been absent from our society since the time of the Qajars were revivified, such as defense affairs, defense itself, holy war, and martyrdom. There was a time when our economy had been separated from war, our policy had been divided from war, our culture had been cut off from war, but once again war, defense, and martyrdom seeking were incorporated with the key issues of the revolution and once again we were standing on our own feet and relying on our own resources. [passage omitted]

The experience that we gained in this regard is extensive. It includes things like the production of arms and ammunition, innovations, and planning of operations. We were emptyhanded and the enemy had armor and artillery. It is well known in the world that if an infantryman meets a mounted soldier, the infantryman calls on the soldier to dismount and fight if he is a man. We are proud that we were like infantrymen fighting mounted enemy soldiers. They had armor and we did not. If our circumstances in the war are not taken into account when comparisons are made with classical warfare, it will be a major error on the part of the analysts. We were unarmed infantrymen against the enemy's cavalry. There are few instances in the history of Islam of such a war.

The blessings of the imam's auspicious spirit were infused in our society and our youth, resulting in an uprising. We are certain that with the experience that we have obtained and these great gains that we have attained we can build a structure of a multilateral defense and self-reliance on which we can depend in the future.

[Afshar] In concluding the program, I thank you, dear brothers, for your participation. [passage omitted]

IRGC Official Comments on Defense Readiness

LD2209115688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Interview with Afshar, IRGC spokesman, by unidentified correspondent from the IRGC program; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] His excellency the imam in a recent message stressed the essential role of the holy institution of the IRGC, calling it one of the greatest defenses of the divine values of our system, in time of war or peace. In this connection, in your opinion what plane and perspectives can be seen in the great convention [held 18 September] of the commanders and officials of the IRGC?

[Afshar] Naturally, in order to consolidate its momentum and maintain its values and achievement, every revolution must have an armed force made up of the people, a force able to guard all aspects of the revolution by its understanding of them. Of course, we believe that the ideological aspects of our revolution should be guarded by our highly esteemed clergy. Because of their responsibility and committment and due to their deep bonds with the ongoing movement among the people, they—God willing—will not allow the revolution to suffer in this respect. Of course, this is a very serious threat to any revolution which may forget its values after victory, particularly a revolution as profound and vast as the Islamic Revolution. Certainly, this is a very difficult task, and we ask the martyr-nurturing nation and our good people, who have maintained their bonds with the clergy and the supremacy of the jurisconsult, to give

priority to this matter over all others. The armed defense of the revolution is also very relevant; this is one of the duties of the IRGC as stated in the Constitution. The defense of the Islamic Revolution pertains to the defense of the country's land and borders. This means that defending the country's borders is part of the general defense of the Islamic Revolution. This is, of course, an interpretation made by the esteemed Council of Guardians on the legal duties of the IRGC as stated in the Constitution. Therefore, we should give the IRGC forces the best training programs and organization of high standards so that they may be able to shoulder their heavy task. Anywhere the revolution is threatened, from inside the country or abroad, the IRGC must be ready for defense in all places. Certainly, the IRGC comes to the people for help in order to carry out this defense; it cannot execute its mission on its own. For this reason mobilization was left in the hands of the IRGC, and a firm bond has been created between these two forces. Therefore, considering the mission of the IRGC and the scope of its operations, we can grasp the dimensions of his eminence the imam's remarks and note the great importance of our defendse of the divine values of the Islamic Revolution. The executive officials of the country, the people, and the committed individuals, who are concerned that this armed defense of the revolution take place in the best possible way, must rush to the IRGC's aid. The IRGC will always need the people's assistance and cooperation. It has been our fortune to have participated in the people's training, mobilization, and organization. As the experiences of the world'd armies has shown, the victorious force is always the one which can mobilize its means and equipment. in the shortest time. [passage omitted]

Further on Naval Minesweeping Operations

LD2209175788 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Iran's Navy began sweeping mines in international shipping lanes of the Persian Gulf as of 09:00 hours local time (05:30 GMT) Thursday [22 September], said Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan today.

In a telephone contact with IRNA, the Navy commander said the minesweeping operations coincided with the first day of the "sacred defence" week which marks the 8th anniversary of the Baghdad regime's aggression on the Islamic Republic.

Rear Admiral Malekzadegan said mine-sweeping vessels, modern helicopters, hovercrafts and other naval units are involved in the operations underway both around the Strait of Hormuz and the headwaters of the Persian Gulf.

A command warship is conducting the operations aimed at securing safety of navigation and shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf, Malekzadegan said.

He said although the Islamic Republic had already made public the date of its mine sweeping operations, none of the Persian Gulf littoral states has chosen to participate in them as yet.

The Navy commander predicted the operations might last till the end of the current Iranian year (ending March 20, 1989) because the area to be demined is quite extensive. He said it was likely a few mines might evade search and remain in international waters of the Persian Gulf despite the Islamic Republic's minute inspection.

Ten cargo and warships have so far hit mines in the Persian Gulf including the U.S. Frigate "Samuel Roberts" early this year which triggered the unmanly U.S. naval attack on Iranian oil platforms. The U.S. warship was escorting Kuwiait oil tankers when it struck the mine.

The Kuwaiti supertanker "Bridgeton", sailing in the Persian Gulf under U.S. naval escort over a year ago also hit a mine and was badly damaged.

Bakhtaran Helicopter Pilots Stage Exercise

LD2109184488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Dozens of helicopters belonging to the Bakhtaran Army Aviation Corps, today, on the eve of Holy Defense Week and the anniversary of the start of the imposed war, performed a splendid exercise over the skies of the cities of Bakhtaran and Eslamabad-e Gharb. In this exercise, the fast-flying pilots of the Bakhtaran Army Aviation Corps, who are on record for having created innumerable epics in the various theaters of war, flew their fighter and transport helicopters and displayed their military power and capabilities.

Mobilization Forces Depart for Fronts

LD2209135288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The cities of Sanandaj and Rasht were today the scene of the departure of fresh mobilization troops to the frontiers of the Islamic homeland. According to the Central News Unit, on the 1st day of holy Defense Week, a large group of the combative popular forces departed from the cities and townships of the provinces of Gilan and Kordestan for the southern and western fronts to guard the frontiers of the Islamic homeland.

Volunteers Leave From Hamadan Province

LD2309092688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] In order to assist the soldiers of Islam on the frontiers of the Islamic homeland, a group of selfless people of Islam, from the cities of Arsanjan and Khonj, departed for the southern and western parts of the country. These fighters consisted of mobilization and specialized forces within the Muharram convoy. A

detachment of specialized forces of the War Engineer Support Headquarters of the Reconstruction Jihad of Hamadan Province also departed.

A technical-specialized detachment also from the War Support Headquarters of the Jihad Reconstruction of Garmsar township departed for the fronts of our Islamic homeland on order to assist the soldiers of Islam.

Soviet Delegation Leaves; Protocol Signed

LD2209151388 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Visiting Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations Veniamin Korolev and his entourage flew back home Thursday after a week long visit and participation in the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair.

During his visit, Korolev discussed with Iranian officials mutual cooperation in various fields including development of power stations, extension of the Esfahan steel mills and damming of border rivers between the two countries.

Korolev also reached agreements with Iranian officials on the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil and gas and on the holding of the 11th session of the joint economic cooperation committee at the ministerial level in Moscow in December.

A protocol containing agreements reached by Korolev and deputy minister of economic and financial affairs 'Ali Majedi was also signed by the two sides.

Hungarian Trade Official Meets With Mo'ayeri

LD2109211988 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Visiting Hungarian deputy foreign trade minister Tibor Melega in a meeting with deputy prime minister for political affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri Wednesday said his country is ready to contribute in Iran's post-war reconstruction. Hungary is prepared to cooperate with Iran in the fields of industry, agriculture, and energy, said Melega.

Mo'ayeri replied that the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair provides a good opportunity for the two countries to become familiar with each other's potential and to find new grounds for mutual cooperation.

Meets With Larijani

NC2209075888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The Hungarian deputy minister for foreign trade, who is in Tehran to participate in the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair, met with Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, and discussed matters of bilateral interest.

During this meeting, the Hungarian deputy minister for foreign trade spoke of his country's capabilities and interests in expanding joint cooperation and in participating in the reconstruction program.

Mr Larijani stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to expand relations in various fields and to utilize Hungary's experiences and capabilities in the country's reconstruction.

The Hungarian deputy foreign trade minister also met with Mr Mo'ayeri, deputy prime minister for political affairs. During this meeting, the Hungarian official expressed hopes that the visit by his country's Council of Ministers chairman to the Islamic Republic of Iran will be effective in expanding and deepening relations between the two countries.

Discusses Commercial Ties

LD2209212888 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Hungarian [Deputy] Foreign Trade Minister Tibor Melega in a meeting with official in charge of Commerce Ministry 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here Thursday, said Prime Minister Karoly Grosz would soon visit the Islamic Republic. He also showed interest in expansion of trade ties with Iran.

Vahaji accepting HUngary's proposal replied that the visit of the two countries expert teams could prepare the grounds for exchange of information and promotion of Iran-Hungary trade ties.

Yesterday, Melega had met Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani to discuss issues of mutual interest.

In the meeting, Melega announced his country's eagerness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic and to cooperate in post-war reconstruction.

Larijani replied that the Islamic Republic was prepared to promote mutual ties in several other fields and to utilize Hungary's experiences in reconstruction of war-ravaged areas.

Velayati Receives Ethiopian Trade Official

LD2109175088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Getachew Desta, the deputy foreign trade minister of Ethiopia, today met and conferred with Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs. In this meeting, Mr Desta submitted a message from his country's foreign minister to Mr Velayati and referred to developments and progress in Ethiopia in the past few years. He said: We intend to expand our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. During our stay in Tehran we became

aware of the multitude of available grounds for the expansion of political, economic, commercial, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Then, Mr Velayati said: The political geography of the region necessitates establishment of extensive links between Iran and Ethiopia, and for this reason there have long been extensive ties between us. Mr Velayati continued by expressing hope that more visits and a further exchange of views between the two countries will lead to greater expansion of trade.

UNHCR Supervises Return of Halabjah Residents
LD2109180488 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept. 21, IRNA—A team from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Wednesday supervised the return of a group of Halabjah inhabitants to their homeland after six months staying in Iran.

On March 18, Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on Halabjah, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq, martyring over 5,000 Iraqi Kurds and maiming more than 7,000 others.

The 3-man UNHCR team arrived here Tuesday and held talks with the refugees and officials and also prepared reports.

Some 7,000 Halabjah inhabitants have so far returned to their homeland after a ceasefire went into effect between Iran and Iraq on Aug. 20.

Envoy to IPU Session on Human Rights Declaration
LD2309030288 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 22 Sep 88

["Iranian Delegate Exposes Gaping Holes in Human Rights Declaration"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—An Iranian parliamentarian today sharply criticised the obvious inadequacies of the world human rights declaration, and said it has miserably fallen short of meeting the rights of the human race so wonderfully defined by Islam.

Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani speaking at the 80th session of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) in Sofia, Bulgaria, said Islam as a divinely revealed religion attaches special respect for the human being and humanitarian values.

Raja'i Khorasani, Iran's former ambassador to the United Nations, said the Islamic Republic is ready to cooperate with other countries to iron out discrepancies of the human rights declaration.

Referring to the Iraqi use of chemical weapons, the Saudi regime's attacks on hajj pilgrims in Mecca (July 31, 1987) and the U.S. attack on the Iranian airliner in the Persian Gulf on July 3 this year, Raja'i called on world countries to rise above petty political considerations and adopt a decisive stance true to the rights of man.

More than 400 pilgrims were killed and wounded by the Saudi regime in Mecca during the "antipathy towards unbelievers rally", while the USS. Vincennes' missiling down of Iran Air Flight 655 claimed 290 innocent lives. As for the casualty toll of Iraqi gas attacks it runs into tens of thousands, with Halabjah (5,000 killed, 7,000 maimed) standing out as a ghastly reminder.

But surprisingly world countries especially the self-styled champions of human rights did not even raised an "eyebrow", let alone utter a world against such a blood-curdling stampede of human honour and dignity.

Meanwhile Ahmad 'Azazi who leads the Iranian delegation to the IPU session yesterday met Bulgaria's parliamentary speaker and stressed the necessity of serious efforts by world bodies for enforcing U.N. Resolution 598.

'Azazi called for international pressure on Iraq for full implementation of the resolution.

Some 500 parliamentarians from 96 countries are participating in the session which started Monday, to discuss human rights and the fight against apartheid.

ECO Officials Meet at Bazargan Border
NC2209083588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a delegation of economic officials of the member nations of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] comprising Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, held a meeting of the Bazargan border and discussed ways to expand existing cooperation, particularly in the transport of goods.

The report adds that the ECO economic officials inspected the Bazargan transit route before attending this meeting. The members of the delegations also inspected the Bazargan customs installations and acquainted themselves with customs problems regarding the three countreis' economic cooperation.

Another report from the Central News Unit states that ECO Chairman 'Alierza Salari, who arrived in Islamabad yesterday, met with Pakistani officials and discussed ways to make this organization more active. After his meetings with the minister of communications, the deputy minister of the economy and finance, and the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, the ECO chairman attended an exclusive interview and said: The organization's constitution foresees extensive cooperation. We have propounded programs and proposals to

the Pakistani officials to revive this organization and to make cooperation between its members more active. These programs and proposals were welcomed by the Pakistani officials.

Atomic Energy Official Addresses IAEA Meeting

LD2109212388 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) Reza Amrollahi lashed out against the indifference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) vis-a-vis the Iraqi regime's attacks on the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Speaking at the 32nd IAEA general session in Vienna Wednesday, Amrollahi regretted that the Islamic Republic has repeatedly fell victim to IAEA's weakness for failing to take a stance towards military attacks against Iran's nuclear installations.

The Iraqi regime has attacked Bushehr nuclear plant nine times from March 1984 to January 1988 as a result of which 13 people were martyred and heavy damage was inflicted, he said.

Amrollahi who is also deputy prime minister said the agency has so far failed to take a firm stand against such impudent violations.

The Islamic Republic stresses peaceful usage of nuclear energy and hopes IAEA would take firm steps in this line, render help to developing countries and prevent the destructive use of this energy, he said. Amrollahi further said statistics reveal that only 20 per cent of the world's people utilise 95 per cent of power produced by atomic plants. While, he added, 80 per cent of the world has access to only five per cent power produced by nuclear plants.

These figures, he continued, show that exploitation of nuclear energy has accelerated in industrialized countries and not equally as the case should be throughout the world.

Amrollahi heads an Iranian delegation to the 32nd annual IAEA session began in Vienna on Monday.

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Comments on Coming Elections

PM2209132688 Brussels LE SOIR in French 19 Sep 88 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto by Colette Braeckman in Karachi on 16 September]

[Text] Karachi, 16 September—Despite detention, exile, and surveillance, Benazir Bhutto presented Pakistani President Ziaul Haq with a formidable challenge after her father's execution in 1979. She has taken over from Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and has inherited his battles, his enemies, and also his charisma.

Now, 1 month after President Ziaul Haq's death, at a time when Pakistan is moving toward the 16 November elections, Benazir Bhutto is the main opposition figure. The charm of her beautiful face conceals a relentless determination and her Pakistan People's Party [PPP] is the main party in the country. She granted us a long interview.

The widespread popular support she has in both Karachi and the Punjab does not alter the fact that Benazir Bhutto is still under close surveillance on the large family estate.

However, despite being pregnant and visibly exhausted by her political struggle, Benazir Bhutto is an extraordinarily energetic woman and seems to have no doubts: "If the elections are free and democratic, we will win them.

"Ours is the only party which really struggled against the oppression and our prime minister was executed. Our suffering reflects that of the whole people and November will be the first opportunity to choose between those who supported the oppressors and the others. But will the elections really be free?

"We have no confidence in the present government. We reject all agitation, and we only want one thing—a peaceful transfer of power. We are asking for a neutral government before the elections. But the existing cabinet comprises men who used fraud back in 1985, making 12-year old children vote.... At the time, political parties were banned, as were megaphones. It was not an election, but a selection."

[Braeckman] If the political parties can take part in the election (in the past candidates had to stand on an individual basis), if the PPP wins the elections, and if you become prime minister, how will the military and religious authorities react in this Muslim country?

[Bhutto] Why should the Army oppose us? After all, India had a woman prime minister and she divided Pakistan in two. When Israel was governed by a woman, she won military victories. Mrs Thatcher won the Falklands war. There is a history of women leading victorious armies. You must be ignorant of Islam and its traditions if you think being a woman is an obstacle. I am not sexist. I do not think a person's intrinsic qualities are determined by sex.

I do not think I will have problems with the Army. It is disciplined and obedient and every officer has sworn to respect the Constitution. In addition, the Armed Forces have made the wise decision to withdraw from politics. And I do not think the Army today could refuse to take the people's aspirations into account or risk plunging the country into a major crisis.

With regard to religious leaders, I dealt with them before and after my return to Pakistan. For instance, our party has joined forces with a Muslim party in opposition and we give each other support. I have no problem with the mullahs or with religion.

I would like to remind you that, in my father's day, Pakistan convened and organized a conference attended by all Muslim countries. However, during Ziaul Haq's rule, nothing was done for the glory of Islam: quite the reverse.

The Afghan Muslims have slaughtered each other, the Iranians and Iraqis have done likewise and, in Pakistan too, there have been struggles between different groups, although they are all believers.

If Ziaul Haq had really respected Islam, he would have allowed the family and our friends to have seen my father's face after his death. That is a right laid down in the Koran....

What legacy has Ziaul Haq left? He has robbed future generations, the level of literacy has fallen, there is hatred among the provinces, ethnic groups, and religious sects. We have come through a dark time and we must now rebuild our country.

Another Generation

[Braeckman] If you win, will it be your father's posthumous revenge?

[Bhutto] What was my father's message? He said that to live according to Islam's precepts in a Muslim country, there must be economic and social justice and a democratic system. He said there was poverty, backwardness, illiteracy, and hunger in Pakistan. That was the message of the sixties and seventies and it was a different time.

But we are now approaching the end of the eighties and we must rethink our policy. You do not wear summer clothes in winter or vice versa. Times have changed and our party has moved toward the center. Our means are different, but the ultimate end is is the same. For instance, nationalizations were necessary in my father's day, because there was a terrible gulf between rich and poor.

Today, however, many Pakistanis have worked abroad and the money they have sent home has increased living standards. Similarly, thanks to the laws introduced by my father, the agrarian reform, and the minimum wage, there has been an increase in incomes. A middle class has emerged, the social and economic composition of society has changed, and we must now take account of the middle class' aspirations.

Our party thinks we have workers returning from the Middle East and highly skilled entrepreneurs. If we could attract foreign capital in sufficient quantities, it would change the face of Pakistan. We want the middle class to grow and the number of those living in poverty to fall. It is a great program and these are great ambitions....

[Braeckman] Does it constitute a revolution?

[Bhutto] It is a revolution for the Indian subcontinent. But, from a Western viewpoint, do you not have elections every 4 years and governments and parties which consult the people?

Afghanistan

[Braeckman] Do you feel as committed to Afghanistan as President Ziaul Haq was?

[Bhutto] It is true Pakistan was very closely involved in the Afghan problem. But, following the signing of the Geneva agreements, this problem is coming to an end. Our party intends to honor the pledges given by our country.

We hope the civil war will not be continued after the Soviet withdrawal and that is why we ardently hope the UN mediation mission will be successful. Indeed, the 3 million Afghan refugees are a great burden on us, but we understand they are reluctant to return to their country because of the danger....

[Braeckman] Pakistan's support for the Afghan struggle brought it considerable U.S. aid.

[Bhutto] We hope this aid will be continued after the Afghan problem is solved. There are so many other spheres in which we could cooperate with the Americans: human rights, the fight against drugs.

We will not change the country's foreign policy. We believe in maintaining good relations with the United States and we think our relations with Moscow will improve after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

[Braeckman] Could relations between India and Pakistan be made easier by the fact that Rajiv Gandhi and you belong to the same generation?

[Bhutto] Our two countries face the same poverty, we have both had to face conflicts and review our policy. It is true the Indian prime minister, whom I have never met, belongs to the same generation—the generation born after the partition of our countries. This should enable us to build a lasting peace....

President Greets Birth of Bhutto's Son

BK2209022288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has extended his sincere greetings to Asif Ali Zardari [husband of Benazir Bhutto] on the birth of his first son. He prayed for the health of the child and his mother.

Minister Returns From Visit to Bangladesh

BK2309041888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Federal [Health] Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, who led a 3-member delegation to Bangladesh, returned to Karachi last night. The delegation visited Bangladesh to assess the flood damages there and to express the Pakistani people and government's solidarity with the people and Government of Bangladesh.

The federal minister told newsmen that a naval ship with wheat and other relief materials will leave Karachi for Bangladesh within a day or two.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Extends State of Emergency by 1 Month

BK2309113788 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] A motion to extend the state of emergency by another month was passed in Parliament yesterday with a majority of 96 votes. There were 101 votes for the resolution; 5 members voted against the motion. They were from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Communist Party.

Winding up the debate, Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali pointed out that Prime Minister Premadasa's housing program is about to receive international acclaim. Under the 100,000 housing program, 153,000 houses had already been constructed. [sentence as heard) The number of houses built under the 1 million housing program was more than 775,000. These houses have been provided to the public irrespective of any differences.

Referring to the present situation in the country, the minister said measures have been taken to release those having connections with the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna for the sake of peace in the country.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali praised the MP for Kalawana and the United Socialist Alliance for speaking with awareness of students' problems. Although mercy can be shown at students creating unrest, those inciting them cannot be pardoned.

The government will leave no room to disrupt civil life. Fascist methods are being implemented by those groups seeking to regain power. The merger of the north and the east is a temporary measure. A referendum in this regard will be held. All of us should get together against this merger. [sentence as heard] However, the people should not be provided with a negative awareness.

Five New Political Parties Recognized

BK2109112488 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] The commissioner of elections, Chandrananda de Silva, has given recognition to five new political parties. Symbols have been allotted to the recognized parties.

The Desa Vimukthi Janatha Party has as the symbol an ear of paddy [rice stalk], the Muslim United Liberation Front, the horse. The Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front has taken the symbol of the bull. The Democratic Freedom Liberation Front has the anchor, while the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization has taken the symbol of the ship.

Inquiries into some applications received last Monday, the last date, are still continuing.

DAILY NEWS Hails Elections in North, East

BK2209152988 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 16 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "The N/E Polls"]

[Text] President Jayewardene's directive to the Elections Commissioner, to hold elections to the merged North-East Provincial Council, marks another step in the fulfilment of the 1987 accord with India.

The merger has been provided for by the Provincial Councils Act enacted last year. That same law provides for the holding of a referendum to permit voters in the Eastern Province to decide whether, or not, to de-link from the North.

Undoubtedly, the merger has been a controversial issue. So, then, will be the polls. Of course, in one measure or another, some contentious issue underlies every poll. That, precisely, is the point of an election: to arrive at some consensus on questions on which there can be no unanimity.

The Elections Commissioner, Mr, Chandrananda de Silva, is already making arrangements to hold the elections in the two provinces. So far, the Commissioner and his staff, and the police, have recorded fine performances at every provincial council election held to date.

The forthcoming N/E [North/East] polls will, again, call for the highest efficiency and dedication to duty. The attitude of some of the political groups in the Tamil-speaking areas is still not very clear. At all events, it will present all, even the militant activists, perhaps, with an opportunity of reentering the mainstream of political life in the country. To that end, India has already declared a five-day cease-fire.

The LTTE has yet to give any indication of support for that approach. But it is clear enough that no region can ever hope to develop itself—or to see its people on the way to economic progress—if it is to remain engulfed in crossfire and internal conflicts.

Jaffna and Batticaloa need to avail themselves of the time and opportunities available for agricultural, industrial and commercial development.

The theory of a separate state, or eelam, clearly has no backing from the Sinhala people, or from India under the accord. That, indeed, is one of the crucial gains that can be claimed for the accord: that it was to deny supposed Indian support to the separatists in their objective of a separate state.

Given the reality of that situation, the Tamil community must surely accept that aloofness will not bring much gain. The lessons of the Tamil boycott, at first, of the Donoughmore Constitution, ought not to be forgotten. It was unavailing.

Again, any section claiming equal rights under the Constitution cannot repudiate parts of it.

The North/East polls are intended to open the door to a new era of reconciliation and national reunion. Humanity will hope that that endeavour will be duly rewarded.

Briefs

Iranian Envoy Presents Credentials

Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Colombo 'Abdolreza Faraji met with Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs A.C.S. Hameed Tuesday and presented a copy of his credentials. At the meeting the two sides stressing expansion of bilateral relations expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of Tehran-Colombo ties. [Text] [*LD2209001688 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 21 Sep 88 LD*]